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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

At the Gordon Hall, Tientsin, on Thursday, the 28th June, the wife of W. A. BRADLEY, of a daughter.

On the 13th July, 1900, at 18, Boone Road, Shanghai, the wife of NEIL C. BRODIE, of a son.

On the 13th July, 1900, at No. 7, Seward Road, Shanghai, the wife of J. G. DE SOUZA, of a daughter.

On the 15th July, 1900, at Shanghai, the wife of P. F. CARNEIRO, of a son.

At 2, Seward Road, Shanghai, on the 16th July, the wife of Dr. GEO. A. STUART, Nanking, of a son.

On the 16th July, 1900, at 30, Quinsan Road, Shanghai, the wife of R. D. WATT, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

At Bangkok, on the night of the 13th July, MADGE, daughter of William MUIR, Borneo Co.'s Mills, aged one year and eight months.

On the 14th July, 1900, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, of failure of the heart, GEORGE HARNSELY, of Tientsin, aged 48 years.

On the 18th July, 1900, at his residence, 17, Chaoufoong Road, Shanghai, ROBERT WEST MUSTARD, aged 61 years.

On the 23rd July, at 41, Morrison Hill Road, Hongkong, STEPHEN WILLIAM GOGGIN, late Capt. of the steamer *Honam*, aged 57 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 22nd June arrived, per P. M. steamer *China*, on the 21st July (29 days); and the German mail of the 25th June arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Weimar*, on the 25th July (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The news of the week from the North will be found in the telegrams from our Correspondents on p. 65.

Admiral Seymour arrived at Woosung on Thursday with H.M.S.'s *Centurion* and *Alacrity*.

The Portuguese Consul-General at Bangkok has taken steps to foster the small trade between Portugal and Siam. At his prompting, the "Portuguese Commercial Company" has been formed there, to that end, with a capital of 30,000 ticals.

The P. & O. Company's hired transport *Nankin* left Bombay last Sunday afternoon, the 22nd instant.

H. M. torpedo destroyer *Hart* left Shanghai on the 18th inst. The Dutch cruiser *Holland* arrived the same day.

The U.S. battleship *Oregon*, which recently ran ashore near Chefoo, passed Moji at 9 a.m. on the 16th inst. and has arrived at Kure, where she is docked for repairs.

H.M.S. *Argonaut* has passed through the Suez Canal and should be out here in about three weeks' time. The transport *Antillian* left the Cape on the 21st inst. with a battery of field artillery for China.

A small fund has been raised by residents of Shanghai for the assistance of refugees who may be in temporary need, and has been placed in the hands of Mr. H. H. Fox, at H.M.'s Consulate-General, Shanghai.

The U.S.S. *Priceton* was due to leave Swatow on the 20th or 21st inst. for Amoy. She found Swatow very quiet and with no evidences of any disturbance. From Amoy she will proceed to Shanghai, but the duration of her stay at Amoy is not known.

On the 16th inst. M. Doumer, the Governor-General of French Indo-China, opened the section of the railway between Langson and Porte de Chine. General Su had a long conference with the French Governor and the affair passed off most cordially.

The transports arriving at Hongkong during the week were:—*Ballaarat* (22nd inst.), *Putiala* and *Wardha* (23rd), *Palamcott* and *Vadala* (25th), *Nevasa* (26th). The departures were:—*Itama* and *Warora* (22nd), *Ballaarat* (23rd), *Palamcott*, *Wardha*, *Putiala*, *Vadala* (26th), and *Nevasa* (27th).

The Agent of the C. P. R. Co.'s Steamship Line received a cable on the 25th inst. advising him that the Canadian Government has at last passed a bill raising the Head Tax on Chinese Immigrants from \$50 (gold) to \$100 (gold) per head, the alteration coming into force on the 1st January next.

On the 18th inst. the death took place at Tonkin of General Borgnis-Desbordes, Commander in Chief of the French forces in Indo-China. The immediate cause of death was failure of the heart, following on a successful operation on the liver. The General was 60 years of age and was appointed to his post in February last year.

The following is a letter written by Li Chikao, third son of H.E. Li Hung-chang to his cousin, Li Sing-wa, in Shanghai:—"A telegraphed Imperial edict has been received hastening the departure of my father up North. Those at Peking seem to be greatly repentant and filled with fear. They have telegraphed to the sovereigns of the various Powers acknowledging China to be in the wrong and praying for a suspension of hostilities. But heavy reinforcements are already on their way here, whilst from Japan 20,000 men will have arrived at Taku in a day or two. Whether the Powers will consent or not to stopping of hostilities and negotiate for peace seems to be absolutely uncertain. My father intends to go up to Shanghai and there see what sort of a reply the Powers will have given (to the Peking Appeal), and then decide as to his future course. I will let you know when he starts (for Shanghai)."

H.M.S. *Goliath*, which arrived in the harbour on the 21st inst. p.m., was completed this year at Chatham. Her principal figures are:—Displacement, 12,950 tons; i.h.p., 13,500 (Belle-ville boilers); armour, side 6 in., bulk-head 12 in., and gun-position 12-5 in. (Harveyed steel), deck-plating 3-2 in.; guns, four 12-in., twelve 6-in. Q.F., eighteen smaller quick-firers, two light guns; torpedo tubes 5 (4 submarine); speed 18.25 knots, complement 700.

H. M. S. *Marathon*, third-class deck protected cruiser, was expected to arrive at Singapore from the East Indies station last Sunday, en route for China. She was to coal and proceed north immediately. The *Marathon* is commanded by Captain J. G. M. Field. Her principal figures are:—displacement 2,950 tons; i.h.p. 9,000; deck-armour 1½ in.; guns six 6 in. Q.F., nine 6 prs., one 3 pr., three maxims, one light gun; torpedo-tubes 4; speed 19 knots; complement 218.

The Nanking correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* writes:—"We who are staying in Nanking are more and more impressed with the fact that Nanking is the place to be in at this time. The Viceroy is daily giving new expressions to his genuineness. He seems to have resources for every need. When the settlement comes to be made with China these men who have stood firm and true should certainly not be forgotten. Their wishes ought to find place in the balance."

Sir Francis Wallace Grenfel, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., who is reported to be about to take command of the British forces in China, served as Aide de Camp to Sir Arthur Cunynghame in the operations of 1877-8 in the Transkei; also as Staff Officer to Colonel Glyn, commanding a field force in the Transkei, and was present in the engagement with the Galekas and Gaikas at Quintana Mountain on the 7th Feb., 1878 (mentioned in despatches, Brevet of Major). Served in the Kaffir war of 1878 as Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quarter Master General at Headquarters. Served in the Zulu war of 1879 as Deputy Assistant Adjutant General at Headquarters, and was present in the engagement at Ulundi (mentioned in despatches, Brevet of Lt.-Colonel, Medal with Clasp). Served under Sir Evelyn Wood in the Boer war of 1881 as Assistant Quarter Master General. Served in the Egyptian war of 1882 as Assistant Adjutant and Quarter Master General on the Head Quarters Staff, and was present at the engagements of Tel-el-Mahuta and Kassasin (9th Sept.), and in the battle of Tel-el-Kebir (mentioned in despatches, Aide de Camp to the Queen, Medal with Clasp, 3rd Class of the Medjidie, and Khedive's Star). Served with the Nile Expedition in 1884-85 on the Lines of Communication (mentioned in despatches, C.B., and Clasp). Served with the Egyptian Frontier Field Force in 1885-86, and was present in the engagement at Ginnis in command of a Division (mentioned in despatches, K.C.B., and promoted to 1st Class of the Medjidie and 3rd Class of the Osmanieh). Commanded the troops during the operations near Suakin in December 1888, including the engagement at Gemaizah (mentioned in despatches, Clasp). Also commanded the Nile Field Force in 1889 at the engagement at Toski (mentioned in despatches, promoted Major General for distinguished service in the field, and Clasp). On the 31st December, 1898, he was appointed Governor of Malta, with the rank of General.

THE CRISIS IN NORTH CHINA.

(Daily Press, 21st July.)

Spite of the ingeniously constructed case laid before the Powers by the Chinese Government through the medium of their ambassadors abroad, an admirable translation of which we reproduced on the 19th inst. from our Shanghai morning contemporary, there is continually growing evidence of the fact that the Peking Authorities have been neither blind nor helpless during the growth of the *I Ho Chuan* blister. When they state that the local "authorities" concerned failed to awake to the seriousness "of this movement or to suppress it in its infancy" they forget to add that they were repeatedly warned by the Foreign Ministers of the nature of the agitation, and that they took no measures to compel the local authorities to repress the movement. In the specious account of the admission of the foreign guards to Peking and the bad feeling alleged to have been created by some of these soldiers endeavouring to enter the Tung-hua Gate of the Prohibited City, it is sought to make it appear that the foreigners were themselves responsible for the fate, which we fear has overtaken them, and that the Imperial Government were powerless to stem the tide of disorder and prejudice which had got utterly beyond their control. Even the dastardly and unprovoked murder of Baron von KETTLER, the German Minister, this Decree seeks to show, was accidental and due to his own obstinacy, for it states:—"It appeared that the German Minister had the day before notified by letter the Tsungli Yamen that he was going there the next day, but that owing to constant disturbances occurring on that route the Ministers of the said Yamen refused to consent to a meeting with the said German Minister on that day." This is a transparent attempt to shift responsibility. If the Tsungli Yamen knew the route was so dangerous why did they not warn the Minister, who could then have taken his Legation Guard to protect him, or he could have requested an escort of Chinese Imperial troops, of whom there were thousands in the capital? Instead of declining to receive the Baron—if they really did decline to do so, which seems improbable, as His Excellency would hardly have attempted to make the call under such circumstances—why did they not ask him to proceed by another route or send a strongly armed guard to escort him on that taken on the fatal occasion? It is mere nonsense to pretend that they had not the power to control the mob or to prevent the Imperial troops from joining the Boxers and directing cannon on to the Legations.

In the paragraph dealing with the capture of the Taku forts, after laying the responsibility of the commencement of the attack on the foreign officers, and detailing the refusal of the Commander Lo YUNG-KUANG to surrender them and their subsequent bombardment and abandonment, the Decree proceeds:—"A war had thus been commenced which was not of our beginning or choosing. For you will perceive that, even if China should, regardless of her own power and strength, rush into war, was it likely or reasonable that she should of her own accord elect to fight all the Powers at once? Was it probable that, granting such recklessness, she would have relied on a rebel populace to commence a war against all the Powers?" These questions, thus ingenuously put, would at first blush be answered in the affirmative by persons at home ignorant of Chinese wiles and methods of reasoning. If, however, the Peking Government had

really desired to avoid war, the commandant of the Taku forts would have been instructed to hand them over to the Allied Forces, simply because it would have been a proof of their *bona fides* in desiring to preserve peace and to work with them in securing the safety of the foreigners in Peking. There would have been no loss of prestige involved in handing the control of the entrance to the Peiho temporarily to the Treaty Powers, since no one—to use their own argument—would expect the Chinese to be guilty of the folly of fighting the civilised world. But the Chinese frequently do exactly that which reason and commonsense would sternly forbid, as in the present case. There is certainly a touch of grim humour in their attempting to build an argument in support of their own innocence out of what naturally appears an act of gross folly.

But what seems to us, and doubtless to the world generally, the greatest fatuity on the part of China's rulers is perhaps not so foolish in their eyes. Ever since the Sino-Japanese War the Chinese Government have not only been purchasing arms and ammunition on a large scale, but they have been getting large numbers of their troops thoroughly drilled, or at any rate made, as they considered, thoroughly effective. These troops are no doubt intended to be the leaven whereby the countless banner men and raw levies can be licked into shape. Meanwhile at all the fairly numerous arsenals in the Empire there has been great activity, and most of these establishments can now turn out Mauser and other improved rifles and manufacture ammunition. There existed, therefore, a groundwork for defence against if not for defiance of the intruding foreigner. What was wanting, no doubt, in the eyes of the Government was courage and a cause. These have been found in the fanatical movement originated so recently and mysteriously in Shantung and Chihli by the so-called *I Ho Chuans* or "Boxers," whose great aims are tersely summarised under three heads—support of the dynasty, death to the Christians, and expulsion to the foreigners. These fanatics, who pretend to be invulnerable to attack, have thereby aroused a wild enthusiasm among the silly populace, who implicitly believe their assertions, and on joining the society are ready to go into action reckless of all danger. As we have seen, on the first appearance on the scene of the Boxers they were treated with most unusual tenderness by the Government. Instead of being forcibly suppressed and their leaders decapitated—the usual short way with rebels in China—they were exhorted to keep the peace and to go home, while some mild threats were held out as to the consequences of committing outrages. Next a General is degraded for having fired upon them. Then, Prince TUAN openly commends them for patriotism. Finally, encouraged by official example, the troops join and co-operate with them. The Manchus at Peking are not immune from the Celestial vanity: they have a fixed conviction that with sufficient troops—and they know that men can be raised in countless hosts in China—they can hold their own against all the forces they think can be brought against them. They have magnified the repulse of Admiral SEYMOUR's force on the way to Peking into a great and decisive victory, and they probably hug themselves with the idea that their troops can hold the approaches to the capital against any foreign force sent against them. Who shall say how far the early successes of the Boers in South Africa have not encouraged this conceited government in the belief that they can fight all the Treaty Powers combined? It is certainly re-

markable, too, if the Chinese Government are really convinced of their inability to take on all the Treaty Powers, that they should be actually carrying the war into the enemy's country at the present moment. Yet this is what they have done. Chinese troops have attacked Blagoveschensk, they have stopped Russian steamers from ascending the Amur, and they have had the audacity to erect batteries along the river. These are developments which were never expected, and they have, REUTER tells us, produced an intense sensation at St. Petersburg. It has been the fashion of late years—and with a good deal of reason—to depreciate Chinese troops and regard them as a *quantité négligeable*, but it is evident that they are, after all, a force to be reckoned with so long as they carry effective arms. There are many thousands of Chinese troops at Kirin and on the Manchurian frontier, and the Arsenal at that city is able to turn out large supplies of arms of precision. The chances, therefore, seem to be that unless the Russians receive reinforcements they may be outnumbered and overpowered and the Trans-Siberian Railway torn up. It is not altogether impossible that this unexpected crisis in China may be connected with the approaching completion of that great highway. When the Chinese Government protest so much concerning the folly of recklessness, we cannot avoid the impression that calculated recklessness may prove a convenient way of throwing dust into the eyes of the Powers in case the act should really prove the folly that it looked.

(Daily Press, 25th July.)

The political situation in China grows hourly more perplexing and unsatisfactory. The fate of the inmates of the Legations at Peking is still shrouded in uncertainty, and the statements on the subject, notwithstanding the suspense felt by the nations represented, remain as vague as ever. On the one hand we are asked to believe dubious telegrams which represent the foreigners at Peking as being alive and well on various dates, the 8th, 9th, 11th, 18th, 21st instant; and on the other hand we are bidden to mourn them as dead, since otherwise they would have found some means of communicating with the outside world subsequent to the despatch of Sir ROBERT HART's last message. If the nine hundred or so foreigners who were shut up in the Legations on the 1st inst., then threatened by a howling mob and the Imperial troops, undergoing all the horrors of a siege in the centre of a rabidly hostile population, still indeed survive, then something very wonderful must have happened to have given them succour. It is possible that the usurping Government may, at the last moment, have become alive to the enormity of the crime they were about to sanction, and have delivered the besieged from actual annihilation by making them captives. Indeed one Chinese report states that Prince CHING rescued the Ministers and carried them to his yamen, but this statement lacks confirmation. If it really is the fact, why does not this same Government allow the captives to send assurances of their safety to their respective Governments, and put an end to the veritable horror of suspense that now holds them? If the Emperor KWANG HSU were ruling he would assuredly have done this, no matter how his feelings might have been moved by patriotism. It is stated that His Majesty has appealed to the Presidents of the French Republic and of the United States and to the Emperor WILLIAM II. to mediate for him with the Powers, and has promised that the murderers of Baron von KETTLER shall

be condignly punished. This appeal is somewhat belated, and it is obviously foredoomed to failure, inasmuch as the mystery is still uncleared, the unprovoked murder of the German Minister unatoned for, and the Chinese troops still waging war against the Powers. Moreover, it is also a matter of doubt as to what is meant by the words "Chinese Government" and "Emperor of China." What does the Chinese Government consist of? Is it still an Emperor, an Imperial Council, and seven Boards? What has become of the Tsung-li Yamen? Are these Boards still in existence? Do they still serve the Empress Dowager, and does the old lady still govern in the name of the practically deposed KWANG HSU? Is that monarch still alive, or is he, as reported, dead and is some creature of the usurping faction personating him? Is it true, as has been alleged, that Prince TUAN is the virtual ruler of China? These are questions the Treaty Powers will want to have answered before they treat with any Chinese Government. The Powers must feel that they cannot accept the assurances or the guarantees of the Chinese Ambassadors accredited to them, who are the mere tools of the Peking Authorities. To treat with these authorities—if they decide ever to treat with them again at all—it is essential that the Western States shall penetrate to the Chinese capital, and obtain the true answer to all the many painful queries that are now being asked. It should not be forgotten, in considering what amount of credibility may be given to the Chinese official telegraphic assurances of the safety of the foreigners in Peking, that during the Chino-Japanese War the very frequent and copious Chinese telegrams from the seat of war proved to be one tissue of most unblushing lies, and that every reported victory proved when the facts came out, to be either a defeat or a disgraceful rout. If the Powers retain their common-sense they will absolutely refuse to listen to any representations from the Chinese at all, unless accompanied by an assurance from some one of the Foreign Ministers, and in his own handwriting, that the inmates of the Legations are alive and safe. In any case, we imagine, the Powers will with one accord agree that never again shall Peking be the seat of Government in China. The views on this subject expressed by Mr. FREEMAN MITFORD are very much to the point, and it is satisfactory to find so great an authority as *The Times* referring with favour to his suggestions. Meantime, as we have said, there is a doubt which has to be settled one way or the other as to the fate of the Ministers and the Legations, and it is galling to think that we shall probably have to await the entrance of foreign troops into Peking before we can obtain authentic intelligence of what has happened there since the 30th June. It is most intolerable that, although Peking is still in communication with Chefoo, and thence by wire with the world, we cannot yet secure one short reliable telegram or message to bring to a termination this most miserable state of doubt which now hangs over the fate of those who are said to be cooped up in Peking at the mercy of a savage and shiftless foe.

(Daily Press, 27th July.)

When H.E. LI HUNG-CHANG passed through Hongkong on the 18th instant bound for the North, two important questions were naturally raised—In obedience to whose commands was he acting? and what object did he hope to attain? The first question remains unanswered. Who it was who actually appointed him Viceroy of Chihli and commanded him to leave Canton, we are still unable to say. The conviction

is growing that KWANG HSU is still alive, and it appears possible that the appeals attributed to him are more than merely put into his mouth. But, though he may be alive, he is obviously still only a puppet in other hands, the hands of those whose authority LI HUNG-CHANG is upholding. The second question, what is the object at which LI aims, has been practically answered by the telegrams of the last two days. The trend of his diplomacy since his arrival at Shanghai has been to sound the foreign representatives as to the best terms procurable for his Government if they can restore the Ministers alive and throw overboard the "Boxers." With regard to the Ministers, though it is unsafe to pronounce any definite opinion, we may justifiably say that there is at least a chance that the rulers at Peking have held back their adherents from the last step. Otherwise LI HUNG-CHANG could hardly have ventured to assure the U.S. Consul-General at Shanghai that the Ministers were safe, for to do so if he knew or thought they were already murdered would be to involve himself in the crime and the punishment which must follow it; and among his other qualities the Viceroy certainly possesses his share of caution. It is possible then that the Peking authorities have come round to the view that their best policy is to hold the refugees at the British Legation as hostages and purchase the lightest terms obtainable in return for their surrender. This is the card which LI HUNG-CHANG has played against the Consuls at Shanghai—that is, against such of them as have consented to treat with him, and these are the American and, according to the *China Mail's* correspondent, the French, Russian, and Japanese representatives. This is the policy which many clear-sighted observers suspected when LI HUNG-CHANG's departure north became a certainty. Naturally the Consuls demand a definite proof of the continued existence of their imprisoned nationals before they can consider any terms at all. But, supposing that such proof is furnished, it is impossible to see on what basis any terms can be settled. Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD's letter of the 4th instant to Consul CARLES at Tientsin announced the death of forty-four persons up to that date at the Legation, which makes it probable that all the nations whose subjects are among the beleaguered have deaths to avenge, and, though the United States and, to a certain extent, Japan have given signs of placability, there are other nations who will be harder to appease. The party of Prince TUAN have gone too far to shelter themselves effectively behind the plea that the "Boxers" caused all the deaths and to save their own lives by requesting aid to stamp out the insurrection, thereby making other nations bear the brunt of the expense. In a way, it is a matter for congratulation that this solution of difficulty is not open to the Powers, because in the conflict of aims and interests no one can feel sure that Oriental diplomacy would not once more succeed in avoiding the payment of the greater part of the bill incurred. But, on the other hand, if a ready solution cannot be found and the Powers see nothing feasible except the advance of a force on Peking, they are confronted with LI HUNG-CHANG's reported threat—it can be called nothing less—that a massacre of the surviving foreigners will follow. A fortnight, however, from the 20th instant must elapse before the relief force can be ready to start, and in this interval there may be a faint chance of bringing the usurpers of the Imperial Government to their senses. Unfortunately the unrest in the Yangtze Valley appears to have grown considerably and to threaten

the progress of negotiations of any kind. Cheered though we may be for the moment by the shadow of hope that Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD and the majority of his fellow-sufferers are still alive, the situation remains profoundly gloomy.

THE RELIEF OF PEKING—AND AFTERWARDS.

(Daily Press, 26th July.)

Apart from the question of the hour, which is the relief of Peking and the quelling of the insurrection in the North, there remains the deeper and more lasting one for England of what is to follow the restoration of order—a question pregnant with issues vital to the prosperity of British interests and British trade. We have not the slightest doubt but that, if it were possible, our Foreign Office would revert to that policy of drift which has characterized their attitude on the China question in the past. Happily or unhappily, as the event may prove, and as the public opinion of England may be guided, this is an attitude which they are not likely to be allowed to assume. It will be well for this generation and for the generations to come that the gravity of the crisis which they are called upon to face be brought forcibly before the Government, and with the Transvaal question well on the way to solution it is not unlikely that it will be so pressed on their notice that inaction on their part will become an impossibility. But it is at the same time absolutely essential that the great mass of the public at home should have it clearly placed before them that this is the turning point in the history of China, and that as they may sow now so they will reap in the future. After restoration of order, the first problem the Powers will have to face is the question of Empire or no Empire—division or maintenance of the *status quo*. There will doubtless be a party who will advocate the policy of division, but England and America, if not other Powers, will without doubt adhere to their original and declared intention of maintaining the integrity of the Empire, and with their weight thrown in the balance it is pretty safe to say that this policy will carry the day. The next is the question of who is to fill the throne? Shall it be KWANG HSU, if he still lives, or shall the officials who have remained loyal throughout be called upon to decide who is to preside over the destiny of the millions committed to their charge? These decided, financial reorganization of the Empire will be a matter calling for prompt but careful treatment, and with it the revision of the tariff on foreign imports and on exports. In this connection it is to be noted that it was obviously the intention of the Chinese Government, previous to the outbreak of hostilities, to deal with this question from the old standpoint that foreign nations were concerned only with the question of taxation on imports and exports and that internal taxation was one solely concerning the Chinese themselves, and which consequently they could fix and arrange on any basis they liked. Had the British Government ever been foolish enough to listen to, not to mention entertain, any such proposals, we should have no hesitation in saying their action would be regarded as almost criminal by that portion of the public who have any knowledge or idea of the manner in which the corrupt provincial administrations strangle trade. So closely related and interwoven are the threads of commerce that it is impossible to tighten or break one without at the same time increasing the strain on the others to a dangerous degree. In a word, it is that mistaken policy long entertained by our Government that the in-

ternal affairs of China are none of their business, which is, to a large extent, responsible for the present situation. But, be the causes which led up to it what they may, the situation exists, and financial reform of the Empire has got to be forced. First and foremost, then, must be the abolition of the dual system of custom houses throughout; the necessity for which has been again and again represented by the mercantile community of the Far East, but without receiving any other recognition from the Government than the barest acknowledgement that it would be a desirable reform. This abolition must be done nominally at once; that is to say, an Imperial decree must be issued placing them all under the one Imperial administration which has the capacity or capability of undertaking the task—the Imperial Maritime Customs. The actual taking over of the administration will of course be a matter of time, but as a preliminary the various Imperial Commissioners now in charge at the Treaty Ports must be given full authority to assume control of those customs and *lekin* stations coming under their immediate cognizance. Their gradual abolition or consolidation, according to circumstances, into one Imperial administration will follow. A Railway and Mining Department must be established on the lines of those in vogue in civilized countries and the potential capabilities of China be allowed free development. Such are a few of the steps that must be taken in the near future by the Powers who will exercise a controlling voice in the future of the Celestial Empire; and of those Powers the most prominent should be, and must be, England. Her vast trading interests, her well-known impartiality to all comers, render it imperative that she should take the lead in introducing reform, civilization, and equality of treatment for all nationalities, into a country where her interests are still paramount over those of all other nations.

So much for the future, but in looking forward it by no means behoves us to forget the immediate present. There are large sums of money due by China for loans contracted. There is also a pretty fair account to settle for the expenses in connection with this trouble in the North, and it is not to be supposed that in either case the subscribers to the loans, or those nations who have already experienced losses in the lives of their subjects which no money can repay, will be content to be pecuniary losers. Meanwhile, however, the Imperial Customs administration is duly collecting revenue day by day and paying it over to the provincial officials who, it may be supposed, either remit it to Peking or not as they see fit. It becomes then a question whether the Powers should not notify the Viceroys of the various provinces that, pending the settlement of the trouble in the North, they are to retain all funds so collected, and that on the restoration of good order they will be held responsible for the revenue so collected. Further, the Commissioners in the Imperial Service should be instructed to furnish accounts of all sums collected and expended to some central point of safety, such as Shanghai, so that in event of local risings all records may not be lost. An even better precaution would be the direct payment of all revenue collected into an association of foreign and Chinese banks specially appointed for the purpose. Any such steps as these would, however, need a wise and controlling head, and it would be well for England to take at once the step which she will be compelled to take in the near future, and hurry out to the Far East a CROMER or a MUNRO armed with full powers to take charge of all diplomatic negotiations

with the Powers and in conjunction with them to take such steps as may be considered necessary in order to protect the interests of the bondholders and British interests generally. Until some such steps as these are taken we shall be confronted with the spectacle of foreigners being taxed in order that funds may be provided to oppose the advance of foreign troops in their attempts to effect the relief of their beleaguered, or to avenge the death of their murdered, countrymen.

THE SANITARY STATE OF THE COLONY.

(Daily Press, 24th July.)

The last meeting of the Sanitary Board was especially interesting owing to the discussion which followed upon the minutes by Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary and the Medical Officer of Health, with respect to the additional powers sought by the Board to enable it to deal effectively with insanitary properties. This is by no means the first occasion on which this important matter has been brought to the notice of the Government; for, as Dr. CLARK pertinently remarked, the Board had time and again stated at length what further powers it needed. The Insanitary Properties Ordinance of 1899, although effecting many improvements on previous legislative efforts, is very far from being perfect. Thus, even with backyards, it has been found architecturally possible to run up buildings in apparent conformity with existing ordinances, and yet which shall be capable of accommodating fifteen hundred people to the acre. From a landlord's point of view this is magnificent, but it also shows how urgent is the need for immediate supplementary legislation in the matter of house erection. Not only is this feasible, it has actually been proposed; and when the M. O. H. tells us this, we presume plans have been submitted for approval—and, we conclude, summarily rejected. Surface crowding increases yearly. It is cheaper to add new stories to existing buildings, than to buy other land. Means of rapid transfer from the heart of the city to the outskirts, for the coolie class which forms the big bulk of our population, are not to be found. Ricksha, chair and gharry are all too slow and too expensive. Trams, with cheap fares, are needed. Quicker and cheaper methods of locomotion ought to be provided. Relief may come from an unexpected quarter. When the long-talked-of railway from Canton reaches Kowloon, we shall see a huge transformation. The peninsula opposite will then share more largely in local business than it now does. Yaumati, in fact the whole mainland shore from Kowloon City on the east to Laichikok on the west would, under such circumstances, become residential quarters, and the pressure in Hongkong would be relieved. When the Praya Reclamation was first mooted, it was regarded as the salvation of the Colony. At last we should have land and to spare for building purposes. The scheme is nearing completion, but it has not brought in its train the expected relief. Indeed, the city is more congested than ever. No one expected the place to grow so rapidly; hence our present luckless position. At the present moment, big spaces in our midst hold over eight hundred persons to the acre, and the whole city, including its many vacant areas, contains a population of one hundred and twenty-two to the acre. Roughly speaking, this is double the density of West Ham, London, or Glasgow, the three most thickly peopled of the big towns in Great Britain. This is not what it should be, and ought to give us

serious pause. Being within the tropics as we are, coupled with the fact that we are dealing with orientals who do not appreciate the care we bestow on hygiene, are details that intensify and complicate the problem. A glance at the condition of several European cities will show us how we are placed relatively to other human agglomerations. Berlin has over ninety persons to the acre; Paris just under one hundred and forty, which is worse than Hongkong. Certain, Italian and Austrian cities have even a higher average: but, of all big continental centres, Buda-Pesth, the twin capital of Hungary which straddles the blue Danube, has the unenviable record for over-population: we have not the exact figures to hand, although we are certain of the fact stated. Let us examine the effect that this excessive overcrowding has upon vital statistics. In Norway where the population is thin, and where hygiene is in honour, the average length of human life is fifty-eight; in France, it barely reaches forty; while in Austria it does not exceed thirty-five. Similar figures for Hongkong, even if available, for many obvious reasons, would not furnish a reliable test. The duty of the Government is very clearly defined, and should not be shirked. Dr. CLARK and the members of the Sanitary Board, *pace* the Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, are not alarmists. It matters little now whether former authorities erred or not. The evil of surface crowding exists in a most acute form, and should be promptly remedied. It will be costly to do so. Of this we have the recent example of the Resumption of Taipingshan. It would, however, be far costlier, in the long run, not to do so; for matters in that case could but go from bad to worse. We have had plague with us now for several years. We do not wish to imply that it is endemic; but it will assuredly become so, unless we put our Colony in a better sanitary state than it now is.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

(Daily Press, 23rd July.)

The speech of Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND, M.P., as Chairman at the half-yearly meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., at the London office of the Company, on the 12th June, if not altogether satisfactory reading was at least interesting. Sir THOMAS understands the art, when the occasion permits of it, of presenting the affairs of the company in the best possible aspect and in the most brilliant hues. He is a worthy chairman of a great shipping Company. His speeches on the affairs of the P. and O. S. N. Co. are always well worthy of respect and attention and invariably call forth remarks from a well informed commercial Press. But although as Chairman of the P. and O. S. N. Co. he was able to declare the usual dividends to the shareholders, he was not able to present a very glowing report of the affairs of the Company. It may be that we, resident in the East, more closely brought into association with foreign competition to this great shipping company, are inclined to be rather more critical than the residents or the Press at Home. Whether this be so or not, we are not struck with Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND's speech; discerning as we think certain weakness therein, implying a want of forethought in some affairs of the Company on the part of the directors. Our criticism of Sir THOMAS's remarks are confined solely to the position of the Company in China and refer in no case to the affairs of the Company in other parts of the world to which our experience does not apply. In

speaking of the passenger trade the Chairman said that he was sorry to state that the passenger receipts had undergone a certain decline, not a large amount so far, but it was anticipated that the decline would be continuous throughout the remainder of the financial year, and it was caused as the board believed by the great *bouleversement* which had attended the South African War. So people had remained in England who otherwise would have travelled about: so many people had, on the other hand, gone to the Cape, who otherwise would have found their way to Egypt or to India, and moreover the leave of the whole Military establishment of India being for a time completely stopped had necessarily had a considerable effect upon this branch of revenue. This may be all very well as far as it goes and doubtless did and does effect the passenger receipts of the P. & O. S. N. Co. But what about the passenger trade with China? Has the P. & O. S. N. Co. made the most of its opportunities here? It is a notorious fact that the Norddeutscher Lloyd has almost monopolized the passenger trade from Europe to China and Japan to the detriment of the P. & O. S. N. Co., and well the rival shipping company deserves its success. The accommodation afforded by the Norddeutscher Lloyd steamers both in the first and second class saloons is of the very best, while the service, courtesy, and attention are all that can be desired. The Norddeutscher Lloyd has made a speciality of the passenger trade to China and with a fortnightly service runs from Europe to Japan without a break on the journey. A decade ago the passenger trade to and from Europe was almost a monopoly of the P. & O. S. N. Co. It has now taken the second place in this respect, more passengers preferring to travel with the Norddeutscher Lloyd, where they obtain every comfort in steamers fitted with the latest scientific improvements. To assert itself in the premier position for the passenger trade the P. & O. S. N. Co. will find it necessary to run a through service to China and Japan with fast steamers, fitted as the Norddeutscher Lloyd steamers are with the latest scientific improvements. Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND complains in his speech of not being able to obtain homeward cargoes from China ports to the extent that the P. & O. steamers require. Such a remark may be appropriate when applied to mail steamers, which must run at stated times with the mails. But can Sir THOMAS explain the reason why the Hamburg-American line of steamers, which as a general class of steamers may be compared with the P. & O. intermediate and cargo steamers, can usually obtain full or fair cargoes of bamboo, cane, cassia, tea, camphor, matting, raw silk, feathers and chinaware in the China ports, when the P. & O. S. N. Co's. steamers do not? It has been asserted that the want of a technical and scientific education, such as is obtained readily and universally in German schools, is the cause of the want of appreciation of many of China's raw products on the part of British shippers. It may be so. If such is the case we can then scarcely blame Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND and the directors of the P. & O. S. N. Co. for a lack of technical and scientific knowledge on the part of the British race, for which the British Government is alone responsible.

In speaking of the shipbuilding operations of the company Sir THOMAS mentioned that the four new steamers now contracted for—the *Syria*, *Soudan*, *Somali* and *Sicilia*—were not exactly mail steamers and were intended more particularly for the Calcutta and China intermediate trade. These steamers will each

be 6,600 tons registered with an effective horse-power of 4,500. Very handsome and commodious ships, but a distinct falling off as far as horse-power is concerned from many ships in the same company of much lighter tonnage. It may be presumed, however, that the directors of the P. & O. S. N. Co. in this respect know their own business best and need no criticism from the outside public. Yet the fact remains that the P. & O. S. N. Co. have no mail steamers or otherwise in the whole of their fleet to compare with the *Konig Albert*, 10,643 tons registered and 9,000 horse-power, and while the tendency of the Norddeutscher Lloyd is to put on larger and more powerful steamers on the China Mail Service there seems to be no corresponding effort on the part of the P. & O. S. N. Co.

To have expended £8,500,000 on shipbuilding in less than 20 years is a great achievement on the part of the company and is worthy of congratulations, but when Sir THOMAS says that for the four above mentioned steamers the company on the contracts has had to pay fully 40 per cent. more than they would have had to pay three years ago, seems rather to indicate that the directors have been asleep and not open to make the most of the signs of the times.

It is a well known axiom in shipbuilding that companies should build when trade is dull and the shipbuilding yards empty. Such a condition prevailed in England prior to 1896, when England undertook her great naval programme and let out contracts for some of her battleships and cruisers to private yards. Previously shipbuilding was dull in England, and the P. & O. S. N. Co. should then have made the most of their opportunity, and doubtless much of the excess 40 per cent. might have been saved to the company by the directors.

The conditions of trade in China are not now for the British shipper what they used to be. Fifteen years ago he was almost without a rival and well might claim a monopoly. Times have changed. The German, the American and the Japanese are now in the field and all are now taking an active share in the commerce to be obtained in China. New lines of steamers and new routes have been opened. Faster steamers and better passenger-accommodation now prevail. As a rule passengers are not very patriotic where their own personal comfort is concerned and the Company which caters most for their pleasure and well-being is bound to obtain the trade. The P. and O. S. N. Co. has had a great past and we hope a greater future is still before it. The trade of China is well worth every effort. The P. and O. S. N. Co. has rested too long on its oars and allowed its rivals to glide on, and now with the great shipping companies around it in the China trade it is necessary that it should make every exertion to sustain its premier and pre-eminent position.

Through the "cuteness" of the master of the launch which runs between Kong Mun (on the West River) and Hongkong, the Chinese authorities made a fine haul of pirates the other day. While on his way to Hongkong the master had his suspicions aroused with regard to 20 men who had come on board as passengers having reason to believe that they were pirates who were only waiting until the launch reached a quiet part of the river so that they might rob the other passengers. The master, accordingly let off the steam, making believe that some accident had happened, and the launch was unable to proceed further. The pirates, however, smelt a rat and the whole 20 jumped overboard. An alarm was raised and 13 of them were captured by the Chinese village police. By this time they have no doubt lost their heads.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

KOBE, 20th July, 8.40 p.m.

A personal appeal from the Emperor of China to the Emperor of Japan states that the interests of the two countries are identical. The action of the Powers is aimed at the partitioning of China and will endanger Japan's independence.

The reply of the Emperor of Japan is that the attack on the Ministers was contrary to the law of nations. If China will suppress the insurrection and rescue the Ministers Japan will intercede on her behalf for peace.

SHANGHAI, 21st July, 7 a.m.

Newchwang is still quiet, but all the ladies have left and the Japanese firms have evacuated their premises.

Chungking still remains quiet, and the officials are very active. The harvest prospects are excellent. It is believed that the standstill is owing to the fears entertained of disorderly soldiery passing northward.

The women and children have been advised to leave the river ports.

The *Nerbudda* and *Palamcotta* arrived at Taku on the 16th instant.

SHANGHAI, 23rd July, 7 a.m.

There are continued conflicting reports as to the condition of the foreigners in Peking, but the fact remains that the Chinese get news from Peking in three days' time, while the foreigners get no news whatever.

Viceroy Li Hung-chang has been accorded no foreign reception whatever, and no escort of Chinese soldiers has been allowed to accompany him. He arrived yesterday (Sunday) morning and was escorted to the Tao-tai's house in the suburbs of the British Settlement by a force of municipal police.

SHANGHAI, 24th July, 7.42 p.m.

There are endless reports current, but no authentic news. The Chinese officials are very anxious to persuade the Consular body that the Ministers in Peking are still alive and that punitive measures should be postponed as long as possible.

All is quiet at Tientsin, and the country people are returning to their villages round the town.

SHANGHAI, 25th July, 8.24 p.m.

In an interview with the United States Consul-General, Mr. J. Goodnow, Viceroy Li Hung-chang assured him that the Ministers in Peking were safe. Kang-yi, he said, had not been appointed to Canton.

Refugees from the Yangtze valley Missions are arriving in Shanghai by hundreds.

Tientsin on the 20th instant states hopes that the Peking Relief Force will start within a fortnight of that date.

LEGATIONS REPORTED SAFE ON THE 18TH INST.

We were courteously informed on the morning of the 23rd inst. from Government House that the following telegram was received on Sunday afternoon from H. B. M. Consul at Canton:—

"Acting Viceroy states as certain legations and community Peking safe and protected July 18th.—Scott."

I.M.C. STAFF SAFE ON THE 21ST.

We are reliably informed that a telegram has been received from the Commissioner of Customs at Chefoo, stating that on the 21st instant he received a wire from the Governor of Shantung that the Inspector-General of Customs and his staff were safe.

CHINESE PREPARATIONS AT WHAMPOA.

Mr. G. S. Hummel, the foreign instructor of the Imperial Chinese Torpedo Department and School at Whampoa, arrived here on the 20th inst., and in a brief interview accorded to our representative, said that the Chinese Taotai in charge of the Torpedo Department had advised him to leave, as in the absence of Li Hung-chang he could not guarantee his safety. He also informed the Instructor that 4,000 or 5,000 Imperial troops were marching down to garrison the forts. As there are only about 500 inhabitants in the village of Whampoa the troops are obviously for another purpose than maintaining order.

CANTONESE REFUGEES FROM THE NORTH

We understand that His Excellency the Governor has telegraphed to the Authorities at Tientsin to make arrangements for the passage to Hongkong of Cantonese who are desirous of returning to the South. His Excellency has guaranteed the cost of the passages to the extent of \$5,000, which sum we believe has already been raised by subscription among leading Chinese Merchants of the Colony.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Monday afternoon, the 23rd inst., a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.)

The Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. MEIGH GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. BASIL TAYLOR (Acting Harbour Master).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN.

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. R. M. GRAY.

Hon. JOHN THURBURN.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 37, 38, and 39 and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 13) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS laid on the table the report of the Public Works Committee (No. 2) and moved its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE KOWLOON GODOWNS.

A Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Kowloon Godowns Tramways Ordinance, 1897, was read a first time, on the motion of the ATTORNEY GENERAL seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to again continue in force for a further period the provisions of section 3 of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Ordinance, 1899, with regard to the excess issue of bills and notes payable to bearer on demand. He said—It will be remembered that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was originally incorporated, in this Colony, by Ordinance No. 5 of 1866. The 13th Section of that Ordinance was amended by Ordinance No. 21 of 1882

which substituted a new section 13, which provided that "the total amount of the bills and notes of the Company payable to bearer on demand, actually in circulation, shall not at any time exceed the amount of the capital of the company actually paid up." It was found, as time went on, that this restriction was prejudicial to the requirements of commerce in this Colony and, by Ordinance No 1 of 1899, an excess issue was authorized for the period of one year from the 31st day of July, 1898, on this condition, viz:—If there shall have been specially deposited and shall be kept in the custody of the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer for the time being, an amount of coin or bullion or coin and bullion equal to the whole value of such excess issue for the time being actually in circulation, to be held by the said Colonial Secretary and Colonial Treasurer exclusively for the redemption of such bills and notes wherever the same may have been issued." It is obvious that such an arrangement afforded ample security for the redemption of any such excess issue. Accordingly, the arrangement was continued in force for a period of another year from 31st July, 1899, by Ordinance No. 17 of 1899. The present Ordinance continues the arrangement, which has been found to meet the convenience of the mercantile community, for a further period, viz, till 13th day of August, 1908. That date has been fixed by the Secretary of State as being the date on which the Bank's continued term of incorporation conferred upon it by Ordinance No. 21 of 1882 will expire.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The Council resolved itself into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

On the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE LIQUOR LICENSES ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Liquor Licenses Ordinance, 1898, and to repeal the Liquor Licenses Amendment Ordinance, 1899. He said—The only reason why this Bill was held over and not read a third time at last meeting of the Council was that we might have further time to consider the question of adjunct licenses. I would like to point out that the fees for adjunct licenses were fixed in 1886—at least 14 years ago—by the original Bill at precisely the same amount that they stand at to-day. This Bill does not alter in any way the fee for an adjunct license. Therefore all persons who have taken out licenses, knowing that the law was what it was, can certainly have no reason now to have the fee reduced at a time when other licenses are being increased. If the Bill had included in the schedule an increase in the fee for an adjunct license then those who hold such licenses might have said they would rather have them reduced. Their case has been carefully considered, and the Government has come to the conclusion that they really have no case for a reduction.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The Council went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

On the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION.

The Council went into committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of a supplementary sum of four hundred and eighty-one thousand three hundred and thirty-five dollars and thirty-five cents, to defray the charges of the year 1899.

On the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Council then adjourned until Monday week.

MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council meeting, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding.

INCREASES OF SALARIES.

The CHAIRMAN said the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$2,700 to cover, during the current year, the cost of increases of salaries of His Honour Sir John W. Carrington, Knight, C.M.G., Chief Justice, Mr. E. C. Lewis, Assistant Postmaster General,

and Messrs. C. H. Gale and A. H. Hollingsworth, Assistant Executive Engineers. The increase of the salary of the Chief Justice was not included in the general increase of salaries, and the Secretary of State had now authorised an increase in his salary of \$1,500 a year. The increases to Mr. Lewis, Mr. Gale, and Mr. Hollingsworth were merely allowing them to commit their previous service towards their first increases.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER.—Will their cases come before the special committee in regard to the pay of junior officers?

The CHAIRMAN—No; all these cases are dealt with in the Secretary of States despatch, No. 280 of last year.

The vote was agreed to.

EXPENSES AT THE GAOL.

The CHAIRMAN said the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$4,100 to meet certain expenses of the Victoria Gaol during the current year. The principal excess was in the cost of the food for the prisoners—\$3,000. The estimate was made in May or June last year, and the contract was entered into towards the end of the year. In the interval the money had been already voted. The amount voted was \$9,000, and the contract was for \$12,000. The increase in the contract was caused by the large increase in the price of food and an improvement in the diet scale. The remainder of the increase was due to the supplying of hot water for the prisoners and an increase in the drying apparatus. All this meant more coal and would account for another \$1,000.

The vote was agreed to.

DAMAGE BY THE LATE STORM.

The CHAIRMAN said the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$5,000, to cover the cost of repairs to roads, etc., caused by the rainstorm of the 14th to 15th June.

The vote was agreed to.

This was all the business.

SUPREME COURT.

25th July.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN W. CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

IN THE MATTER OF THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

This was the hearing by the Full Courts of a petition by Ho Tung for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the Judgments of the Courts delivered on the 3rd July.

Mr. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the petitioner Ho Tung and J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) appeared for the Man On Insurance Co., Limited, to oppose the granting of the petition.

The petition was as follows:—1.—Your Petitioner on the 29th day of January, 1900, filed a notice of motion herein in this Honourable Court in its Original Jurisdiction for the rectification of the register of the above-named Company by removing therefrom the names of certain persons in respect of eleven shares in the said company and substituting therefore the name of the Petitioner as the holder of the said shares, the said Company having refused to accept the transfer of the said shares to your Petitioner.

2.—Your Petitioner was on the said date and still is the sole beneficial owner of the said eleven shares, which are of the present market value of \$1,034, equal to £120 17s. 3d. at the present rate of exchange.

3.—On the 5th day of February, 1900, the said motion came on for hearing before his Honour the Chief Justice and a rule nisi ordering the said Company to show cause why the said register should not be rectified as prayed was granted.

4.—On the 16th and 17th days of February, 1900, the said Company showed causes before his Honour the Chief Justice and on the 26th day of February, 1900, judgment was delivered and the said motion dismissed.

5.—On the 7th day of April, 1900, your Petitioner filed a notice of motion in this Honourable Court in its Original

Jurisdiction for the rectification of the register of the said company by removing therefrom the names of certain persons in respect of 108 other shares in the said Company and substituting therefore the name of your petitioner as the holder of the said shares, the said Company having refused to accept the transfer of the said shares to your petitioner.

6.—Your petitioner was at the said date and still is the sole beneficial owner of the said 108 shares and the said shares are of the present market value of \$10,152 equal to £1,900 18s. 3d. at the present rate of exchange.

7. On the 26th day of April, 1900, the said second mentioned motion was directed by His Honour the Chief Justice to be heard by the Full Court.

8.—On the 2nd day of May, 1900, your petitioner filed a notice of motion by way of appeal against the judgment of this Honourable Court in the said first mentioned motion, and on the 4th day of May, 1900, on the application of your petitioner it was ordered by the Full Court that the hearing of the said appeal should stand adjourned until after the said second mentioned motion had been finally heard and determined, or until further order of this Honourable Court.

9. On the 31st day of May, 1900, upon motion made to the Full Court, consisting of Their Honours the Chief Justice and the Acting Puisne Judge, on behalf of the said Company, it was ordered that the said second mentioned motion be stayed until the further order of the Court on the grounds that the said second mentioned motion was frivolous and vexatious and an abuse of the process of the Court, as being made upon precisely the same grounds in law as had already been decided by His Honour the Chief Justice in the said first mentioned motion and it was stated by His Honour the Chief Justice that such further order would not be made unless your petitioner was successful on his said appeal against the said judgment of His Honour in the said first mentioned motion.

10.—On the 8th day of June, 1900, the said appeal was heard by order of this Honourable Court in the Appellate Jurisdiction, dated the 2nd day of June, 1900 and on the 3rd day of July, 1900, judgment was delivered. His Honour the Chief Justice affirming his previous judgment and His Honour the Acting Puisne Judge holding that such Judgment should be reversed, whereupon the said appeal was dismissed.

11.—By the said judgment of this Honourable Court in its Appellate Jurisdiction it is decided that the unsigned document purporting to be Articles of Association of the said Company improperly accepted by the Registrar of Companies and put by him upon the Register of the said Company is the Articles of Association of the said Company and that the regulations contained in Table A of Ordinance No. 1 of 1865 are not the regulations governing the said Company.

12.—In consequence of the said judgment your Petitioner is unable to obtain the legal title to the said 108 shares as well as to the said eleven shares owned by him as aforesaid by the substitution of his name in the Register of Shareholders of the said Company for the names of the persons at present registered as owners of the said shares.

13.—The present market value of the said shares is altogether \$11,168, equal to £1,112 5s. 6d. at the present rate of exchange and on each of the said shares there is a liability of \$100 in respect of uncalled capital amounting, on the whole of the said shares, to \$11,900, equal to £1,184 at the present rate of exchange.

14.—The said judgment of this Honourable Court in its Appellate Jurisdiction involves your Petitioner's title to property exceeding £500 in value and the civil right of your Petitioner to have the conduct and business of the said Company in which he is interested as the owner of shares exceeding £500 in value and having a liability exceeding £500 governed by the regulations contained in the said Table A in lieu of those contained in the above mentioned unsigned document. Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays.

That this Honourable Court will order that your Petitioner have leave to appeal to Her Most Excellent Majesty in Council from the said judgment of this Honourable Court in

its Appellate Jurisdiction. And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

The Man On Insurance Company, Limited, filed an answer to the petition as follows:—

1.—That the said Man On Insurance Company, Limited, refused to register the said Ho Tung as the holder of the shares mentioned in the first and second paragraphs of the said Petition on two grounds—First on the ground that except in the case of four of the said shares the shareholder from whom the said Ho Tung claimed to have purchased the said shares had not complied with the Provisions of Article No. 26 of the Articles of the said Company and—Secondly on the grounds that the Board of Directors of the said Company did not consider the said Ho Tung to be a fit and proper person to hold shares in the said Company.

2.—That with reference to the 108 shares referred to in paragraph 5 of the said Petition no proper application was made to the Directors of the said Company for their consent to the transfer of such shares nor were the numbers of the said shares or the names of the registered holders thereof ever communicated to the Directors. By a letter dated the 16th March last—addressed to the Secretary of the said Company—Messieurs Wilkinson and Grist, the Solicitors for the said Ho Tung, stated that their client had purchased more shares in the said Company and requested to be informed if the Directors still persisted in their refusal to register him as a shareholder. In reply to such letter Messieurs Deacon and Hastings, the Solicitors for the said Company, on the instructions of the Directors wrote to the Petitioner's Solicitors pointing out that, no shareholder having complied with the provisions of Article No. 36 of the Articles of the Company, the Directors could not consider the matter.

3.—The said Company further say with reference to the shares mentioned in the said 5th paragraph of the said Petition that so far as he had acquired any interest in the said shares he, the said Ho Tung, acquired such interest after the date of the Judgment of the 26th February, 1900, in the 4th paragraph of the said Petition mentioned and with full knowledge of the purport and effect of the said Judgment and solely for the purpose of, if possible, bringing himself within the rules as to appealable value contained in Her Majesty's Instructions for Appeals to Her Majesty in Privy Council from Hongkong and for no other purposes.

4.—Apart from his purchase of the shares in the said Petition mentioned, the said Ho Tung is not now the holder of any shares in the said Company.

5.—The said Company admits the statements in the said Petition to be true and correct, except in so far as they are contradicted or qualified herein.

Mr. Slade submitted that from the facts stated in the petition it was clear that the Judgment of the Full Court delivered on 3rd July involved both directly and indirectly the legal title of the petitioner to the whole of the 119 shares mentioned in the petition, which were, altogether, considerably above the value of £500, and it also involved a civil right exceeding that amount in value and, therefore, according to the Royal Instructions of the 21st January, 1846, regulating appeals to the Privy Council from the Supreme Court of Hongkong was entitled as of right to leave to so appeal.

Mr. Francis for the Company argued that according to the proper construction of the first paragraph of the Royal Instruction it was necessary, before leave to appeal could be obtained that the "sum or matter at issue" in respect of which the Judgment was given should involve the title to property or a civil right exceeding £500 in value—and that in this case, the Judgment it was desired to appeal against was not the Judgment delivered by the Full Court on the 3rd July, but the Judgment of the Chief Justice delivered on the 26th February last which was affirmed by the Full Court on the 3rd July, and inasmuch as the petitioner was not possessed of more than 11 shares on the date of such Judgment of the Chief Justice, neither the matter at issue nor the said Judgment involved directly or indirectly petitioner's title to property exceeding £500 in value and therefore the Court have right not to grant leave to appeal, but the petitioner should be left to apply for special leave to the Privy Council.

The Chief Justice said that it was the first duty of the Court in the case to settle what was the correct construction of the preliminary words and the first paragraph of the Royal Instructions regulating appeal to the Privy Council for the Supreme Court of Hongkong. The first paragraph was as follows:—"Every such Judgment, Decree, Order, or Sentence, from which an appeal shall be submitted to us, our Heirs and Successors as aforesaid shall be given or pronounced for or in respect of a sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £500 sterling, or shall involve directly or indirectly the title to property or to some civil right exceeding the value of £500 sterling." The governing words of the paragraph are "Every such Judgment," and there were two conditions laid down with regard to it. (1) That such Judgment shall be given or pronounced for or in respect of a sum or matter at issue above £500 in value and (2) that such Judgment shall involve directly or indirectly the title to property or to some civil right exceeding £500 in value.

The appellant in this case had not founded his application on the first, but on the second of these conditions. He said that the Judgment which he desired to appeal against involves both his title to property exceeding the value of £500, and also his title to a Civil right exceeding the value of £500.

When the Judgment was pronounced by the Full Court on the 3rd July the appellant was the holder by purchase of 11 shares, worth £102 At that date he was also the holder by purchase of 108 other shares, worth £1,009.—The question therefore to be considered was whether the decision of the Court on the 3rd July involved the appellant's title to property exceeding £500 in value. There was no doubt that the decision as to his title to the second set of 108 shares was governed by the decision as to the first set of 11 shares. The Company undoubtedly held the appellant at arm's length with regard to the second set of shares, relying on the Judgment they had obtained with regard to the first set of shares.

The case therefore fell directly within the scope of the second of the two conditions in the paragraph cited. Had the appellant obtained a decision in his favour with regard to the first set of shares he must have also obtained one with regard to the second set. The decision of the 3rd July governed both sets of shares.

The learned Judge stated that it was a question of some doubt in his mind whether, after the primary Judgment had been pronounced, and before appealing against such Judgment, a party was strictly entitled, if he thought fit to do so, to purposely increase his amount of interest with a view to obtaining a right to appeal to the Privy Council so far as the appealable limit of value was concerned. There was no absolute proof in this case that that was what the appellant had done, but a strong inference might be drawn from the facts stated in the petition that the appellant had purchased the 108 shares for that purpose.

His Lordship said he was not prepared to pronounce an opinion on the point. If was one which might possibly be raised before the Privy Council and was certainly an interesting and somewhat important one, but was not, however, necessary for the consideration of the Court in giving its decision on the present application. His Lordship therefore held that when Judgment was pronounced on the 3rd July that Judgment did involve indirectly the appellants' title to property and also to a civil right exceeding £500 in value, and that, consequently, leave must be given to appeal to the Privy Council as prayed for in the petition.

The Puisne Judge concurred, but added that he also had some doubt as to the time when the appellant ought have been possessed of the additional shares in order to give him the right to appeal to the Privy Council, but as the word "Judgment" in the rule referred to could be held to mean the final Judgment of the Supreme Court of Hongkong, and at the time that Judgment was delivered, it did indirectly involve the appellants' title to the whole 119 shares of more than the appealable value, he considered the leave asked should be granted.

It was accordingly ordered that leave to appeal should be granted, subject to the usual conditions as to giving security for the costs of the appeal, &c.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Thursday afternoon, the 19th inst., a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. The President (the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present Mr. F. J. Badeley (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Lieut.-Col. Ryan, Mr. J. McKie, Dr. Hartigan, Dr. F. H. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

THE BOARD AND INSANITARY PROPERTY.

Minutes by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary and the Medical Officer of Health relative to the powers of the Board in dealing with insanitary property were submitted.

Dr. CLARK said the Government asked the Board to say what additional powers they required. They had over and over again stated what additional powers they required, but seeing that the request had been made to them again, he begged to move:—"That the Board recommend the Government to introduce a Public Health Amendment Ordinance on the lines of the Imperial Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1890, to empower them to deal effectually with insanitary properties. Such Ordinance should also contain a clause amending section 12 of Ordinance 15 of 1894, which deals with the height of buildings in relation to the width of the streets on which they front, by prohibiting the erection of any houses in future of a greater height than one and a half times the width of the street on which they front." With regard to the necessity for some such Ordinance as the Working Classes Act., his minute which was circulated among the members showed that they had practically no power to compel the demolition of insanitary property. They could serve a notice and take proceedings before a Magistrate, but if the property changed hands the whole thing had to be gone through over again. In England, if a notice was served by the Sanitary Authority and the premises were not put into a habitable condition after a certain lapse of time the Sanitary Authority could order the demolition of the premises. The Director of Public Works had asked who was going to bear the expense? In the case of certain property which was not fit to be inhabited the cost was shared between the Sanitary Authority and the owner. In the case of the removal of buildings erected over archways and which blocked the light and ventilation of other buildings, the owners of the property benefiting had to bear the greater part of the cost of their demolition. With regard to that part of the resolution dealing with the height of buildings, that was a matter which should be constantly pressed upon the Government. He found that in this colony it was possible to even with the new law as to backyards to place upon an acre of building land over 1,500 people. This was not a mere fancy idea, because it had really been proposed in a certain area of the city to house some 1,500 people to the acre of ground. He did not think that that was a condition of things which could exist elsewhere in the civilised world. Dr. Clark proceeded to point out the difference between Hongkong and other places in this respect, saying that while in this city there were areas with over 800 people to the acre, and that the entire City (including the public gardens and all other open spaces up to the level of Robinson Road and Bowen Road) had a population of 122 persons to the acre, yet taking 36 of the largest towns in Great Britain, there were only three of them with more than 60 persons to the acre, those places being West Ham, London, and Glasgow, and that these three had less than 62 persons to the acre. The most densely crowded wards of the City of Liverpool contained only 160 persons to the acre and a large area at Southampton had been condemned and demolished under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, mainly because it contained as many as 441 persons to the acre, which was considered by the Sanitary Authority as most excessive. The causes of this alarming amount of surface crowding in this Colony were the excessive height of buildings in relation to the width of the streets, and the small amount of cubic air space required per head. Both of these matters required early attention and should be taken in hand by the Government without further delay.

Lieut.-Col. RYAN, in seconding, said he thought that what Dr. Clark had said required no addition from him, except to call attention to the fact that if these regulations were necessary at home in a temperate and comparatively healthy climate, among people whose habits they knew, they were 20 fold more necessary in a community such as this.

Mr. McKIE, in supporting, expressed the hope that the recommendation would receive a little more attention from the Government than other recommendations made by the Board during the last few years.

Dr. HARTIGAN said they were unanimous in regard to the necessity for what was proposed, and the only thing was that he hoped the resolution would receive a little more attention from the Government than other recommendations had received.

The PRESIDENT said that nearly everything which had been urged by the Medical Officer of Health and the other gentlemen who had spoken had his fullest sympathy, but there was a great deal of difficulty about the matter. They had over 800 persons an acre, and if they were to reduce the number to 60 persons per acre, it would mean pulling the whole city down, and he did not think that that would be within the range of practical politics. The Government had sold land without restrictions and if the Government stepped in and interfered with buildings already erected, saying that buildings three or four storeys high would not be allowed to remain, compensation would have to be provided. The only experiment made by the Government in this direction was in the Taipingshan district, where they pulled down some wretched Chinese houses and had to pay something like 800 thousand dollars as compensation for clearing a small area of a few acres.

Mr. FUNG WAH CHUEN suggested that the matter should be left over for a fortnight, as he should like to consider the different proposals, but his suggestion was not adopted, the motion being carried.

THE PROPOSED SEWAGE FARM FOR THE PEAK.

A reply was received from the Government relative to the sewage farm recommended by the Board for the Peak, and on the motion of Dr. HARTIGAN, seconded by Lieut.-Col. RYAN, it was resolved that the Government be respectfully asked to give their reasons for refusing the unanimous recommendation of the Board.

THE SITES FOR LATRINES.

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Mr. McKIE, the following motion, of which due notice had been given, was passed:—"That the Sanitary Board beg to recommend the Government to publish in the *Government Gazette* in English and Chinese, in accordance with Ordinance No. 8 of 1897, the following sites upon which it is intended to erect Public Latrines:—(1.) On the North side of a portion of Crown Land situated at the corner of Western Street and Second Street a latrine of 40 seats. (2.) On a portion of Crown Land situated at the East End of Hing Wan Street—a latrine of 20 seats. (3.) On a portion of Crown Land in the village of Tai Hang at the corner of Cooper Street and Shepherd Street—a latrine of 40 seats. (4.) On a portion of Crown Land abutting on Kennedy Street, Yaumati, and lying to the North of Kowloon Inland Lot 1085—a latrine of 40 seats."

FIGHTING INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Dr. CLARK proposed the following resolution of which he had given notice:—"That, with a view to enabling the Sanitary Board to deal more effectively with outbreaks of infectious disease, the Board beg to recommend the Government, (1.) To assist the College of Medicine for Chinese by endowment or otherwise, with a view to the institution of a subordinate medical and sanitary staff composed of the diplomates of such College, and (2.) To sanction a scheme for the training, during non-epidemic times, of a certain number of Police Officers, in such sanitary work as the disinfection of infected premises and the recognition of cases of small-pox, bubonic plague, &c., with a view to their utilization during periods of epidemic." He said a resolution of this sort had been approved by a committee of the whole Board and was one of the outcomes of a series of meetings held by the

Board in committee to consider the best methods of dealing with plague. As to the first part of the resolution, he might say that the Chinese College of Medicine was founded in 1887 in connection with the Alice Memorial Hospital, which owed its existence to the munificence of Dr. Ho Kai. The college itself was started by Drs. Manson and Cantlie with the consent of the managers of the Alice Memorial Hospital, and had been maintained during the past 13 years entirely by the unselfish efforts of the medical men of this city, who devoted a considerable proportion of their hard-earned leisure to the teaching of the students without fee or reward, and one might almost say without even the thanks of those who ultimately benefited by the knowledge instilled into the minds of these students. The college had turned out 12 properly qualified practitioners during the period of its existence, and it was with a feeling of shame that he was compelled to admit that of those twelve men only one had been employed by the Government of this Colony, and that only recently and for the New Territory. Three were, however, in the service of the Perak Government, who, like Oliver Twist, still asked for more, so that here again they had an illustration of the fact that "a prophet is not without honour save in his own country." Three were in private practice in Singapore and two in Hongkong. One was House Surgeon to the Nethersole Hospital, one had deserted the healing art for the more exciting arena of politics (he meant Dr. Sun Yat Sen); and one, he regretted to say, was dead. His resolution referred to endowment by the Government, but apart altogether from this, the Government would do much for the College and still more for the sanitary condition of this Colony if it would give employment to these men, after they had obtained their qualification, in the medical and sanitary work of the Colony, and although he had urged this upon the Government during the past four or five years nothing had yet been done in this direction. Dr. Clark quoted from his annual reports for 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1899, in which he had made strong recommendations on this subject. In his report for 1895 he wrote:—"One of the most deplorable features of this high death-rate among the Chinese is its partial dependence upon their crass ignorance in regard to the remedial treatment of disease; for not only are they unaware of the use of such a drug, say as quinine in malarial fever, or of the simplest surgical operation for the relief of disease and pain, but such remedies as they do adopt are often of a most prejudicial and dangerous character. So strongly has this aspect of our death-rate impressed me, that I would urge the Board to represent to His Excellency the Governor the desirability of taking at an early date some active steps in the matter of the education of the Chinese in western medicine, such as the endowment of a College of Medicine for the education of the Chinese inhabitants of this colony." In his report for 1896 he wrote:—"The careful investigation of the actual cause of death in all these cases in which such has not been certified by a registered medical practitioner, could well be conducted by a well-trained licentiate of the Hongkong College of Medicine attached to the Sanitary Staff, and I would strongly recommend that some such course should be adopted with a view to rendering our mortality statistics less misleading than they are at present." In his report for 1897 he repeated this recommendation, and added:—"He would, moreover, prove a useful ally in detecting the commencement of any outbreaks of infectious disease among the Chinese." In his report for 1898 he again asked for one or more of these Chinese doctors trained in western medicine, and added:—"Many of the hygienic crimes committed by the Chinese in this colony are unquestionably due rather to ignorance than to wilfulness, and the intelligent propagation of our laws by men of their own nationality would, I feel sure, go far towards ameliorating those conditions which at present tend so largely to the discomfort of European colonists and to the detriment of the health of the Chinese themselves." The doctor added that, like the importunate widow, he had again repeated these recommendations in other words in his report for last year.

Mr. CHAN A FOOK, in seconding, said that if the Government could see their way to act upon the recommendation contained in the re-

solution; the thanks of the Chinese community would be due to Dr. Clark.

On the suggestion of Lieut.-Col. RYAN, Dr. Clark inserted in his resolution, after the word "otherwise" in the first part, the words, "with a view to the institution of a subordinate medical and sanitary staff composed of graduates of such college."

The resolution was carried.

THE ANALYST'S QUARTERLY REPORT.

The report of Mr. T. J. Wild (Acting Government Analyst) for the quarter ended June 30th showed that two samples of whiskey, one of rum, one of port wine, and two of milk examined were found genuine.

AN APPLICATION REFUSED.

An application for exemption from concreting the ground surfaces at No. 12, Arbutnot Road, was refused.

THE LIMEWASHING RETURN.

Mr. J. H. Dandy, Chief Sanitary Inspector, says in his fortnightly limewashing return:—"This return should denote the beginning of the second limewashing. So far we have had notices for 37 houses only and those too late to be visited in time for this return. The 14 houses visited in the Central District are reminders from prosecution cases. The apparent error in Central District is caused by the considerable alterations in the houses and class of tenants since the return was made in October last. Fourteen houses have been limewashed in the Central District and 13 in the Western. Fines amounting to \$1,061 have been imposed for neglecting to lime-wash."

THE PLAGUE IN FORMOSA.

A return was submitted showing that there were 33 new cases of plague in the Island of Formosa between 15th June and 21st June. The total number of cases since 1st January was 950. There have been 698 deaths and 208 recoveries.

THE PLAGUE IN MACAO.

During the week ended 24th June there were 69 deaths in Macao, including 13 from plague. The deaths for the succeeding week numbered 69, including 19 from plague.

THE HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

The death rate for the week ended June 30th was 30.7 against 34.1 for the previous week and 41.6 for the corresponding week last year. The rate for the following week was 39.6, against 40.1 last year, and the rate for the week ended July 14th was 32.3, against 31.1 last year.

EATS AND THE PLAGUE.

Dr. Clark remarked that since the 20th June the mortality among rats had enormously decreased. Although the Board gave two cents per rat these rats were not destroyed but were simply dead rats collected. The mortality among rats reached its maximum in the fortnight ending the 20th June, when 4,325 rats were brought in. The next fortnight the number was 3,000 and last fortnight only 2,000. The interesting thing about the matter was that the plague in human beings reached its maximum on the 30th June, ten days after the rat mortality had reached its maximum.

This was all the business.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

H.E. Li Hung-chang has not received at Shanghai the honours accorded him on his recent visit to Hongkong. The telegrams from the North announce that his arrival at the Model Settlement was absolutely ignored by the representatives of the foreign powers, the British Consul-General being one among those who were absent. Public opinion in Hongkong is very emphatically in accordance with that of Shanghai in this matter, and the feeling locally against honours being accorded to the representative of the Chinese Government was just as strong, perhaps indeed stronger. No one who has knowledge of the Chinese official character is likely to support the demonstration made here, and it is really impossible to conceive a reason for it. On his own statement Li Hung-chang admitted being summoned to Peking by superior orders—presumably those of the Empress Dowager, for she is the only authority he recognises. That being so, and only a superior authority could summon Li to Peking, we have been receiving and honouring the representative of the wretched woman who initiated the trouble and whose Government

is responsible for the murders perpetrated in her own capital.

The guard of honour and subsequent reception were scarcely accorded to Li as an individual, for at least two reasons; namely, that he acknowledged that he was obeying the instructions of his Government (etc), and that he, as an individual, needed no reception because it could serve no useful purpose to us. Surely H.E. the Governor did not expect to pump Li Hung-chang, who is one of the most skillful pumpers the world has produced. Surely H.E. did not wish to reproach Li, as the representative of the Chinese Government, because his rank as a Viceroy placed him above any local reproach. Nor was it likely that on any mild diplomatic solicitations the Viceroy would remain in Canton, having once left it. The reason for inducing him to come here and then honouring him when he did arrive is difficult for the ordinary lay mind to grasp. It was generally believed that the authorities here acted under Home instructions. If this be so, then it is comforting to notice that those instructions have been since repealed, as far as the senior consular representative in China is concerned; or else he and the foreign consuls there in a body have disobeyed them.

The report that Minister Hay has received a cypher reply to his message sent to Peking on the 11th inst., from Mr. Conger, does not carry much weight locally. It is quite possible that the Chinese officials could have provided even a cypher reply, and failing that the American yellow journalist would regard such as quite a commonplace feat. If the unfortunate Ministers really be alive, and most people are endeavouring to cling to even this last straw, and trusting they are, then it is evident that they are being assisted, surreptitiously it may or may not be, by some Chinese in authority. Otherwise it is impossible for them to have held out. In that case it would show that there are still some Chinese at Peking not entirely bereft of reason, or else in a healthy funk as to the possibility of their own rewards. The Acting Viceroy at Canton has brought down the date to the 18th and while all are thankful for this last assurance—which nine out of ten cannot accept it suggests another matter.

This was raised recently in a letter to the China Mail, but a week previously to that it was brought to the notice of the Authorities here. That is, while the foreign officials and newspapers combined find it impossible to get reliable late details from Peking, and even Tientsin, the Chinese officials in all parts of the Empire get news regularly. Apparently the Chinese Telegraph Administration is sending daily over its wires news which the foreign authorities would regard as invaluable, but nothing appears to have been done in the way of tapping those wires—with or without the leave of the Chinese officials. If their attitude was really so passive and friendly, then they should have no objection to a few of the Hongkong cadets, or Chinese-reading officials devoting their abilities to Chinese cypher messages. It would have one effect: it would prevent any military mobilisations or movements in the south being ordered by telegraph.

It would appear that many of the British officers are by no means impressed by the way things have been managed at Tientsin. "Everything is said to be in such a muddle that the less said about it the better. There is absolutely no organisation there." This is by letter from Tientsin, so it is to be hoped that things have improved since then. Another correspondent writes: "The only guns that can reply to the Chinese are four which have been mounted by Captain Scott of the *Terrible*, and their shooting by the *Terrible's* men has been the salvation of the place." Thus the Hardy Man is again on the scene in the nick of time. Hospital arrangements are also said to be progressing at Weihaiwei, where there are five officers and one hundred wounded men being treated.

A Shanghai correspondent writes: "Hillier, weak and amiable, and a friend of Wade and Charles is the very worst appointment that could have been made. Prevent Li Hung-chang—by

force if necessary—coming North. He will make matters tenfold worse, and probably bring about a collision between England and Russia. *Veritas*." This, like the telegram from the Shanghai branch of the China Association, is too late to be of any possible effect. But it is consoling to think that Li has yet to deal with the cordon of Admirals at Taku.

OBSERVER.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

LOCAL NEWS.

Two more transports—the *Warora* and the *Itura* arrived on the 21st inst., and resumed their voyage north in the afternoon. The *Warora* has on board a wing of the 1st Sikhs and section A of 25th British Field Hospital; and the *Itura* a detachment of the 1st Bengal Lancers and Section A 47th Native Field Hospital.

The *Ballaarat* arrived on the 22nd inst. at 11.30 a.m. with the 3rd Madras Light Infantry from Secunderabad and the 66th Field Hospital, which is going to be stationed at Hongkong. The troops were landed at Kowloon at 12.30.

The *Wardha* and the *Puttala* arrived on the 23rd, bringing as reinforcements for the Hongkong Garrison. The reinforcements consist of the 22nd Bombay, numbering 721 rank and file, 12 British officers, and 16 native officers. Major E. A. Kettlewell is in command and the other officers for service regiment with the are:—Major W. J. Hatherell, Captain G. W. Khatchbull, Captain H. H. Nurse, Lieutenant G. N. Labertouche, Lieutenant A. Melville, Lieutenant G. Hutchinson, Lieutenant H. McLaughlin, Lieutenants Kriekenbeck and Baber from the 19th Bombay Infantry; and Lieutenants Casserly and Rudkin from the 20th Bombay Infantry. The *Wardha* also brought some Madras Sappers and Miners and No. 47 Native Field Hospital. The *Puttala* experienced heavy weather in the Bay of Bengal for four days and lost one mule, three horses, five mules, and 87 goats and sheep.

On the 25th inst., the British transport arrived from Taku with 18 invalids on board, together with Sub-Lieut. Braithwaite, Surgeon Smyth, Miss Niele, and Mr. Robert.

The *Vadala* arrived from Calcutta on the 25th inst. with some 540 Indian troops, including the 1st Madras Pioneers.

The transport *Nevasa* arrived in the harbour on the 26th inst., having left Calcutta on the 12th inst. She had on board Captain Stockley, R. E., Commanding Officer, and Lieut.-Col. Waddell, I. M. S., P. M. O., Commanding Native General Hospital, and the following details:—The Bengal Sappers and Miners 4 officers, 2 British non-commissioned officers, 4 native officers, 189 men, 37 followers, 6 horses, 2 ponies, 18 mules and baggage; Native General Hospital, 8 officers, 2 warrant officers, 20 hospital assistants, 45 men and 145 followers; Transport Department, 11 followers, 5 bullocks, 20 mules; Staff, 1 horse and a syce, and baggage.

The *Puttala*, *Wardha*, and *Vadala* left on the 26th inst. for the North, and the *Palmeotta* for the South.

The *Natiana*, which is due here on August 2nd, left Calcutta on the 21st inst. with Ordnance Field Park and D. section 39 Native Field Hospital.

Chev. Volpicelli, the Consul for Italy in Hongkong, has found a good way of arriving at the truth of the repeated Chinese despatches of late that his Minister is still alive at Peking. In answer to a message from the Acting Viceroy of Canton concerning the Ministers (being the same information as communicated to Consul Scott), and considering that telegraphic communication has been opened between Peking and Washington, Consul Volpicelli has asked the Acting Viceroy to forward a telegram to the Italian Minister at Peking. In this telegram the Minister is requested to allude to something known only to the Consul and somebody in Italy, whom he shall name. The answer to this telegram would satisfactorily settle the question, and we feel sure that the Chinese authorities who are so anxious to allay the fears of the foreign communities in China will most readily comply with this reasonable request.

We learn that the Italian transports, *Giava* and *Minghetti*, are expected to arrive at Hongkong on the 25th August, bringing 2,000 troops to reinforce the Italian force in the North.

TIENTSIN UNDER SIEGE.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

* Tuesday, 3rd July.

At the military Council held yesterday, it was resolved to make a strong attack on the western and southern suburbs of the city, with the view of clearing out the enemy from his sniping cover. It is not expedient to state in detail what, and how it was to be done, as the operations may be postponed indefinitely, and undoubtedly the Chinese have telegraphic communication with the South. Suffice it to say that after all arrangements were made, the Russian general asked for a postponement till his reconnoitring party of Cossacks should return. They went far afield yesterday afternoon, and up till midnight had not come back.

The Chinese seem to have had some divination of our intentions, for at 10.30 or 11 p.m. the fiercest fusillade of the whole siege began up in the north-east, in the vicinity of the railway station. For half-an-hour it raged, as if hell had broken loose, with indistinguishable intensity. It was clearly directed against the Russians, both at the station and in the north end of the French Concession, although to us residents at the extreme south of the British Concession, a mile distant, it seemed to be in the direction of our outposts, to the N.W. I hear the gallant Russians took it with the finest sangfroid and held their fire, only shooting when they saw a human object to fire at. The enemy, failing completely at the upper pontoon bridge (Railway Station approach), moved away to the south and east and poured heavy volleys into the eastern side of the French settlement under the cover of the salt heaps; the French marines from Tangku repaid them in kind, and the dreadful row continued till 1.30 or 2 a.m., apparently with very little damage on either side. It was pitch dark and raining hard; now and then the boom of a fieldpiece joined in the din; it was certainly the most determined move the enemy has made since their onset this day fortnight (19th June). The British Settlement escaped most of the firing, although not a few bullets found their billet in the *Barfleur* barracks at Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's north godown.

I grieve to say the gallant Midshipman, Donaldson, of the *Barfleur*, died in the Tientsin Club just before midnight—our first fatal issue from a wound.

This morning heavy cannonading has been going on all round our lines; and once again our good neighbours the French have been badly in it. The Imperial Maritime Custom House and the adjacent Cathedral Church of St. Luke have been hit over and over again—the latter crowded with Christian refugees. The shells are bowling fiercely over our heads as I write, though, with two exceptions, none have fallen in the residential parts of the Concession. The exceptions are, one in the premises of the Taku Tug and Lighter Co., which took fire—promptly extinguished;—the other fell alongside of three Companies of Japanese infantry marching along Victoria Road. The quondam Long Toms, up in the city fort, have been moved out to the banks of the great Lutai Canal; they have been aptly rechristened the Empress Dowagers, and it is they which are now playing the old game of long bowls. I was fatuous enough to think we should be troubled by them no more, crediting the Chinese with the commonsense view that they would wish Tientsin City to get its own chance of ever being shelled and destroyed; but it only shows how inept a cautious observer can be when he attempts prophecy.

I am now of opinion that the city will be attacked; and that soon. The Allies have altogether 28 field-pieces, besides Maxims, Gatlings, etc. Of these the most formidable is the *Terrible* twelve-pounder, with its Scott-mountings. Capt. Scott has four of these beautiful weapons all ready to land; why only one was put ashore is doubtless known to some responsible person, but I know that Admiral Seymour is only too eager to have all four now.

* Delayed in transmission.

There is also some talk of a 4.7 coming, but I doubt it; though the *Algerine* will probably send up some of her battery.

At 4 p.m. yesterday our first serious settlement fire came off. The south godown of the Ocean Steamship Co. (Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, agents) gave out volumes of dense, dirty smoke; before the fire finished both that godown and the central one were destroyed. The first one contained much sugar (and, I think, peanuts), the second was a subsidiary building to British Naval headquarters. I hear that it contained abundant stores and some ammunition, but in any case, whatever it contained, was salvaged. Of course, nearly everybody says 'incendiarism,' and the over-suspicious are advocating strong, if not blood-thirsty measures to meet the case—the total expulsion of all Chinese, etc., etc. I must confess myself unwilling to believe that a Chinese incendiary who would venture into the jaws of the tiger, viz., British headquarters; it is at least equally probable that it was due to accident, mere shifting cargo and dropping a match. As the fire adjoined much British ammunition it was carefully watched, and once more we had to bewail Tientsin's inability to cope with fire in the absence of adequate gear.

2.30 p.m.

I have had to desist from writing by shell fire for two hours the Empress Dowagers have been pelting us with a steady persistency hitherto unknown during the siege. After seeing the ladies and children snug in the cellars, I counted the shells which passed within the line of my own residence between 11.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. There were 31 (of which number ten failed to explode) 3.5 common shell, and eight 2.25; the gunners get their direction wonderfully well but here praise ends. Nearly every shot was badly timed and badly elevated, most of them going clean outside, but close to the Weitzel, or mud wall, which limits the Municipal Extension. Only two houses were struck, though there were showers of segments in a few cases.

At the moment I resume writing (3 p.m.) a big thunder-storm is raging, and it is just a little difficult to discriminate between nature's and man's artillery. Large forces are out in several directions, and in the lulls of the storm one can hear distant rifle firing and the pom-pom of the Allies' guns also at a distance, but I understand that once more only a reconnaissance is being made.

The Japanese infantry have to-day taken over the defence of the West and South, relieving the British and German naval pickets. I may add here that the perfect equipment of their battery of six-pounders has attracted universal admiration.

Admiral Seymour has to-day issued the following notice:—

"All women and children whose houses have not got good cellar accommodation are at once to go to the Gordon Hall and Astor House. Furthermore all women and children are to be sent away by the first opportunity of water transport to Tangku or Taku, thence on board ship and away from the vicinity of the Peiho."

This is as significant as it is self-explanatory. I understand a small deputation of people connected with the shipping interest has waited on the Admiral to-day to suggest that the exodus be properly organised, that steamers be sent up from Shanghai to take all the women and children, and over 2,000 Cantonese refugees, and that that they be sent to Taku under proper guard and protection. The few ladies who chose to go down steamer yesterday in the *Fawan* got down safely enough, but there is no guarantee that the next journey will have a similar happy issue: e.g. a launch coming up yesterday ran aground, and was for some hours sniped at all round. We roughly estimate the ladies at 150 and the children at (or below) the same number. If they go to Shanghai, I feel sure it is a work of supererogation to ask Shanghai to be kind to them.

The chronicle of the rest of 3rd July is summed up in one word—rain. Rain such as we have not seen for ten months, and which is undoubtedly the herald of the damp season.

There is a good deal of 'enteric' among the men who were with the Admiral.

I had an opportunity to-day of finding out the views of the fairly intelligent runner who brought in Sir Claude's note two days ago. He did not have such pessimistic views as ourselves about the foreigner's situation in Peking—and

especially on the question of food supply. He stoutly holds to the view that the mercantile classes are smuggling in food to the besieged and will continue to do so; that it is only the Boxers who will attack them, and that there are already signs that the Boxer craze is abating, if not becoming unpopular; and that Prince Ching is taking active measures against the Boxers, and quarrelling with Prince Tuan for his partiality to them.

I recite these views not for their inherent value, which is very small, but because the very act of doing so buoy me up out of utter despair, and may do the same for your readers.

4th July.

There was nothing to relate of yesterday afternoon and evening—the chief event of which was the burial of Mr. Donaldson of the *Barfleur*.

The big reconnaissance of yesterday issued in 47 casualties, mostly Russian and Japanese—16 killed and 31 wounded. To-day, so far (11 a.m.) has been a day off. The Chinese have been re-inforced by 6,000 men, and we can see 9 new guns mounted on the south wall of the City, so that if they begin to batter us, it will be very hot business. It is possible, however, it may only be intimidation to keep our metal off the City.

War illustrates the stitch in time apothegm—had the scheme of attacking the City been carried out last week, we might have been spared yesterday's ordeal and (possibly, much worse). The cry of the hour is heavy guns; our 28 field-pieces are ridiculously inadequate to deal with the modern Krupps in the possession of the enemy, hence we are passionately awaiting the arrival of the naval twelve pounders. One at least is hoped to-day.

Sniping was again active last night and the *Centurion's* blacksmith was shot while asleep in the Jenchi (W. Forbes & Co's) godown.

The anxiety to get the women and children away is increasing, but at present the only way out is *via* towboat journey down stream—a very risky business, though it has been done several times with success.

Noon.

The steamer *Heron* has arrived with 80 *Terribles* and two of the greatly-to-be-desired twelve-pounders. The officers report the river all quiet, and fairly negotiable; she returns to Taku at once, with 4 ladies and 12 men. The *Fawan* is returning up stream, and will tow down a lighter with most of the ladies and children (250 in all), and a guard of Volunteers, to-morrow at 9 a.m. They will *pro tem* find refuge on board H. M. ships. No shelling up to date. *Deo gratias*.

Later.

At 1 p.m. to-day, when I closed my last notes, everything was fairly calm; we were lost in astonishment that the Chinese did not renew the punishment they gave us yesterday—the more so as we counted nine newly-placed Krupps bristling on the south wall of the City. We expected the worst bombardment we have yet had, but nothing but a demonstration has come to pass. A violent thunder and rain storm began at 2 p.m. Coming up as usual against the wind, it passed over the City towards us, and has literally deluged our roads with rain water. Before it began the Chinese issued from the south gate in some force, and immediately steps were taken to meet them if they meant attack. The *Terrible's* twelve-pounder was reinforced with another and both pounded away, while the Japanese infantry opened on them with Maxim and rifle, and the Asiatic Artillery joined in with their muzzle-loading screw guns. The din of the battery at times rivalled that of the heavens, which were pealing out heavy thunder for three consecutive hours.

If the Chinese really meant business they wisely postponed it. I noted that our gunners carefully forbore from firing into the City proper. While this was going on, on the west side, I hear the *Barfleurs* were hardly pressed at, or near, the Railway Station, and sent in for reinforcements. The Chinese retaliation or demonstrations did not seem to include the deliberate bombardment of the Settlement to-day—a happy augury, let us hope, for the despatch of the ladies by boat and lighter to-morrow.

The tropical rain will make the lines and camps a perfect quagmire, and our friends the

Russians must have felt a pang, that they had so ruthlessly destroyed everything. The ruined villages still can give cover to an advancing enemy, but no protection from the weather.

Later, 9 p.m.

I hear the afternoon attack on the Railway Station was quite a big affair; the *Barfleur* had to send for large supports, which came from the Hongkong regiment and the First Chinese, besides the French and Russians. The casualties were close on fifty—one Pathan killed, six wounded; two First Chinese killed, four wounded. The latter regiment, by the by, again behaved very well under fire: the fact that this fine body of men is where it is one of the most striking anomalies in a situation which is full of stark and staring incongruities.

A few more of our ladies went down stream to-day in towboats; this demonstrated the safety of the river. Not one shot was fired from either bank.

Thursday, 5th July.

Our people opened proceedings this morning with very heavy gun fire directed on the Chinese mountings. Up to the time of my leaving the Settlement at 11 a.m. no shells fell in the British Concession, though the French as usual did not fare so well. The Naval authorities advertise the departure of the *Lauchow* (lighter) and the *Fawan* (tug) at an indefinite hour during the morning; so 220 civilians, mostly ladies and children, left the port under a guard of Tientsin Volunteers, British and German with some German bluejackets. What with the rifles of *pater familias*, we number one hundred guns. The voyage was uneventful but safe, comfort and organisation at a minimum, but people did not mind that. The war is full of most ghastly objects and still more ghastly accompaniments. Enough to say that China's scavengers, the dogs and pigs, were seen at their worst.

I notice with pleasure that there had been very little or no devastation on the right bank, and that on the left there were more villages uninjured than injured. We have heard that not one village was standing or a human being to be seen. The actual state of affairs is appalling enough, but it does not approximate to this. There was also abundance of vegetable food, especially of Indian-corn. We saw Japanese infantry (1,000) marching, and a goodly body of cavalry, 200 or 250 sabres. Railhead was distant from Tientsin still some 8 or 9 miles, but now that the river is open this is a less urgent matter than it was. The *Algerine's* two 4-inch quick-firers were passed on the way up.

On arriving at Tangku, there was a very striking contrast in the various national arrangements. A Japanese launch was instantly alongside and transhipped 20 or 30 Japanese to their destroyer. The Germans followed, taking every German subject to the *Jaguar*. The large crowd of British (possibly 160) had to crowd aboard the *Shengking*, and trust to the slender stores of the steward for food and drink, and (mostly) to the deck for bed room. Still we were all so grateful to have women and bairns out of the cursed shell fire that we were grateful for such arrangements as Captain Warrenner was able to make.

At Tangku we heard of an intended attack to-morrow on the Peitang forts. A Russian infantry regiment was to attack by land, after a shelling by a German cruiser from sea—but this was mere hearsay. Heavy firing heard occasionally in the Tientsin direction, twenty-eight miles in a bee-line.

Friday, 6th July.

The Volunteers' guard left us with hearty and reciprocated cheers at 6.30 a.m., to return to the trying air of Tientsin. Capt. Harris took us out to the Bar in the *Shengking* at 7, where Admiral Bruce boarded us from the *Fame*.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT OF THE SIEGE.

The Special Correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News* gives the following details about Tientsin during the siege.

Tientsin, 6th July.

A DAY OF FIRING.

To-day has been a long twelve hours of cannon-thunder. At dawn the Chinese began their firing, and were replied to by three of the *Terrible's* 12-pounders and several French and Japanese guns. Most of the Chinese firing came from the north-east, where they had a battery of eight guns. The *Terrible's* gunners were splendid, and

the 145 shots which they fired at three thousand yards range did great execution. The big gun in the native city, supported by two smaller guns, was doing damage. Two bluejackets were killed, but the full list of casualties cannot yet be obtained.

The Chinese firing stopped about three in the afternoon. It is believed that their big gun was put out of action, as four shots seemed to find its exact position. It is believed that the south and east parts of the native city are considerably damaged.

As soon as the Chinese fire stopped, a party of bluejackets and men of the First Chinese Regiment moved out to attack the suburbs of the city, with a 9-pounder. They had to pass over most difficult country, covered with burnt houses, and they encountered so murderous a fire that they had to retire. Major Bruce, of the 1st Chinese Regiment, was seriously wounded in the left side, and two of his men were killed. The rest of the force only suffered minor casualties.

Tientsin 8th July.

STILL SHELLING AND FIGHTING.

There is still the heavy shelling of the Settlement by the enemy. Yesterday the Japanese cavalry found the enemy's skirmishers to the westward, and to-day, for the first time, the enemy appeared in that direction in force. The Japanese had a sharp engagement on the outskirts of the French Concession yesterday, in which they behaved splendidly.

The shooting of the enemy's gunners is surprisingly good, and they threaten our communications somewhat.

The Russian Governor of Eastern Siberia, Admiral Alexieff, has arrived to take supreme command.

Tientsin, 10th July.

IMPROVEMENT AT TIENSIN.

So far as Tientsin is concerned the position of affairs has considerably improved. The Chinese had been working round from westward toward the south, threatening the river communication, and posting guns. Then bombardment was resumed, and several casualties were the result.

The Chinese firing was so good that the suspicion grew that foreign gunners must be at work.

Yesterday the allied forces decided to make an attempt to dislodge the enemy in the south-west. The Japanese cavalry got among the enemy, and inflicted a loss estimated at 200.

Altogether the Japanese deserve high praise for their military arrangements and tactics. Their transport is surpassingly complete, even to the smallest detail, and includes small boats adapted for work on the Peiho river. The provision of stores for their troops has also been well thought out. The recent naval manoeuvres have evidently left them in a high state of preparation. The cheerful way in which they co-operate with the British, American, and other forces is also notable.

The British gunners have done splendid work. They have had the additional difficulty in the fact that the guns had to be brought from ships fourteen miles outside Taku, and thence for twenty-five miles up-stream to Tientsin. The exceptional transport difficulties, however, are steadily being overcome.

On Sunday a mixed naval squadron, consisting of the British *Aurora*, the German *Hansa*, the French *Surprise*, one Russian, and one Japanese, left Taku to demonstrate in the neighbourhood of Shanhaikwan.

Sixteen hundred American troops have arrived—a valuable addition to the allied forces.

On all hands comments are made on the bravery of the British middies in action. Already two of them, Donaldson and Esdaile, both of the *Barfleur*, have been killed.

CAPTURE OF THE NATIVE CITY.

The same correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News* gives the following details of the capture of Tientsin native city:—

Tientsin, 14th July.

Tientsin native city has been captured. During the whole of last night the allied forces bivouacked, and this morning the successful attack was made. There were concerned in this matter some eight thousand troops. Of these the British, American, and Austrian

troops were under General Dorward, the French under Colonel de Placot, and the Japanese under General Fukushima, altogether four thousand men: and on the other side of the city the Russians and Germans, also numbering four thousand.

In the darkness the allied line moved out and forward, and finally lay down under the city wall. Cover was good, and the heavy fire of the Chinese through the night was little more than a waste of ammunition. Before the day broke a party of Japanese sappers crept cautiously to the south gate, while the troops behind them waited for the signal. This came with a flare and a dull crash, and the men sprang forward at a run. They poured through the wrecked gateway, the Japanese having the honour of being the first to enter the city.

The British ran straight on through the narrow ways, in the hope of capturing such things as might be useful as transport in the advance on Peking which is to come. One river steamer and about two hundred junks fell to them. The Japanese share was one million taels of silver, which they found in the Chinese government treasury, and handed over to the care of the Americans. The Russians captured eleven guns, but failed to take the fort in the north-east of the city. They had decided to do it on the following day, but the Japanese forestalled them by taking it shortly after noon.

PENALTY OF VICTORY.

The losses of the allies in this brilliant affair—which reflects credit on all alike—were unexpectedly heavy. They totalled 775 killed and wounded.

Of these the British lost fourteen killed, including Lieutenant Ollivant, 1st Chinese Regiment, and ninety-one wounded; the Americans, forty killed, and 125 wounded; and the Japanese, six officers and fifty men killed, and 150 wounded.

And now foreign flags fly triumphantly over the captured city—a great part of which is burning. It has been divided into sections. The British take the north-west, the Japanese the north-east, the Americans the south-east, and the French the south-west. Colonel Bower is the administrator of the British section.

OTHER DETAILS.

This capture secures the settlements of Tientsin against the continual shelling which has gone on for so long.

The fires caused by shells in the city are still burning, but it is hoped to put them out shortly. The fighting altogether lasted for sixteen hours.

It is impossible to estimate the Chinese losses. Their force probably numbered 25,000 Boxers and 10,000 Imperial troops.

AN AUTHORITY CRITICISM.

This war gives an interesting opportunity of comparing the troops engaged. I have it from a high military authority, that he considers the Japanese fighting with great dash, but that their uniforms and movements are both antiquated. Against such an enemy as the Boers, he says, they would be wiped out. He added that much the same criticism applied to the Russians. He considers that the British army is equalled only by the German.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL REPORTS.

THE CAPTURE OF TIENSIN ARSENAL.

Tokyo, 16th July.

The following report from Captain Yamashita, the second in command of the cruiser *Kasagi*, who is commanding the Japanese marines at Tientsin, has been received by the Japanese Government. The telegram is dated the 13th inst. at Chefoo:—

"At 5 a.m. on the 8th inst. the enemy attacked the foreign concessions at Tientsin. At 9 a.m. the Allied forces placed two guns in the vicinity of Hachiritai, about 2,800 metres south of the West Arsenal, and shelled the enemy, who were repulsed by noon.

"Twelve Japanese field pieces, four British twelve-pounders, one six-pound quick-firer, four Indian field-pieces, six French Tonkin mountain guns, and four 12 c.m. guns landed from the British battleship *Terrible*, were placed in position.

"On the afternoon of the 8th inst. the Allied forces, consisting of Japanese, British, and Americans, advanced to the south-west of the

foreign Concessions, clearing away the Chinese troops and Boxers, and making preparations to attack the West Arsenal.

"At 3 a.m. on the 9th the forward movement of the Allied forces commenced. It was arranged that 1,300 Japanese troops, with six guns, and 900 British, with four guns, should make a direct attack, while 400 Russians and 149 Japanese marines landed from the *Suma*, *Kasaki* and *Takasago*, with 100 American blue-jackets, were to advance at an opportune time and attack the Arsenal from the flank.

"The Japanese advanced from the Liangyen Gate, the British troops forming the right wing, and after clearing out the Boxers an attack was made on the Chinese troops on the race-course, which was occupied and four guns captured. The Allied forces then advanced towards the West Arsenal. At 8 a.m. the Japanese marines entered the Arsenal, followed by the American marines and the Japanese troops, and a hot fire was directed on the flying Chinese. The houses in the proximity of the Southern gate were first set on fire by the Japanese and British artillery, and a fierce onslaught was made on the Castle and the Arsenal, which were thus captured.

"Soon after the Arsenal had been taken, a conference was held by the British and Japanese commanders and the question whether the Arsenal be destroyed or not was considered. At first it was decided to preserve it, but as the building had no roof and no accommodation for quartering the troops, it was afterwards decided to burn it down. The troops were accordingly withdrawn.

"During the attack on the Arsenal, one Japanese marine named Ishizuko was severely wounded in the head by a rifle bullet.

"On the morning of the 10th the Chinese troops and Boxers again attacked the Foreign Concessions. During the fighting, Captain Takehisa was killed and two Japanese Cavalry Ensigns were wounded, besides a number of the rank and file.

THE FIGHTING AT TIENSIN STATION.

Tokyo, 16th July.

The following telegrams from Chefoo, dated the 15th inst., has been received by the Naval Department:—

"At 3 a.m. on the 11th inst. the enemy approached the vicinity of the Railway Station at Tientsin, and advanced within 50 metres of the line of guards of the Allied forces. The Japanese, British and French who were guarding the Station were exposed and sustained heavy losses. One company of Japanese infantry lost all its officers, and more than 70 of the rank and file were killed or wounded. The French lost about 60 killed or wounded. Hundreds of Chinese were shot down. About 6 a.m. the Chinese entered the neighbouring dwelling-houses, and continued firing, but did not advance. Firing stopped about 8 a.m. The British losses were comparatively small."

THE CAPTURE OF THE NATIVE CITY.

Tokyo, 16th July.

The following telegram from Chefoo, dated the 15th inst., has been received by the Naval Department:—

"According to a report from the German commodore, which is said to have been received by the Russian officers from Tientsin, at daylight on Saturday, the 14th inst., the Allied Forces of Japanese, British and Americans attacked the native city at Tientsin from one direction, and the Germans, Russians and French from the other. The Japanese troops captured the city.

"The casualties of the Allied Forces amount to 600 killed and wounded."

DESPATCH FROM BARON NISHI.

Tokyo, 16th July.

"The following message from Tientsin, dated July 15th, at 7.30 a.m., has been received at the Naval Department:—

"A despatch from Baron Nishi, Japanese Minister at Peking, addressed to Captain Mori at Tientsin, has been brought by a Chinese messenger, who left Peking on the 30th June and arrived at Tientsin on the 12th inst. This despatch states that the situation at Peking was extremely critical. The Chinese Imperial troops were besieging the foreign Legation and bombarding them continually with guns and using explosives day and night. The members of the Legations and the Legation guards were

doing their utmost against their assailants, but ammunition had fallen short, and the danger was hourly pressing that the foreigners would be all massacred. It was earnestly desired that the relief force should soon arrive.

"The messenger further stated that the Ministers and other members of the Legation of all countries were assembled in the British Legation, which was being attacked day after day by the troops under Tong Fu-shao and others. He feared that there would be no means for obtaining a supply of food after the 1st inst."

THE TROUBLE AT HOIHOW

Our correspondent in Hoihow arrived at Hongkong on the 25th inst. and brings the news that trouble is brewing in Hainan. The Hainan people have the reputation of being quiet and rather timid, but lately during the troubles up North Europeans have been looking for the possibility of disturbances in that port. Nothing, however, has been noticed among the natives in Hoihow, where the Europeans live. About the 3rd or 4th moon the Chinese began preparing for the decennial festivities. The merchants subscribed liberally towards the fund and applied to the Europeans also to subscribe. It is said that the Consuls and European merchants subscribed as desired. Since the trouble up North started, there has been an idea among the Europeans that this festival would interfere with the general calm of the town. The preparations, however, have been going on and are still going on up to this day. But nobody expected any disturbance so as long as Li Hung-chang remained in Canton. Since the news of his departure everyone has felt uneasy. On Monday, the 23rd inst., about noon, one of the Chinese *literati*, who is a friend of the Europeans, sent news from Kiungchow, the capital, that he had seen a despatch from Peking to the Taotai, ordering him to supply rifles and ammunition to the members of the Triad Society, and that the regular troops should join the Triads in driving out all foreigners. The Triads number between 7,000 and 8,000 to the north-east of the island, about 20 miles distant from Hoihow, and in Hoihow proper there are about 400 of the Society. Having heard this news, the British Consul called upon the German Consul and they went over to the French representative to confer on the question of protection of Europeans. They sent to the Taotai asking whether he could protect the Europeans in case of trouble. The reply was that he could not give any protection at all; and it was also understood that he would not do so. In the circumstances the Consuls strongly advised all their nationals to clear out as soon as possible. On the afternoon of Monday everyone who could pack up in time managed to get on board the steamer *Hoihow*, which was leaving for Hongkong on Tuesday morning. Those who came up were:—Rev. A. E. Street, Mrs. Street, and child; Rev. W. M. Campbell, Mrs. Campbell and child; Mrs. J. M. Lowry; Mrs. Forsaith; Mr. H. A. Atkinson and child; Mrs. McCandless and two children Miss Schaeffer; Master Burke, and Mr. E. P. Sequeira, the agent for Messrs Marty at Hoihow. There remain on the island Dr. and Mrs. Vanderburgh and two children, Rev. and Mrs. Patterson and child, and Mrs. Melrose, in the south-west of the island, 93 miles distant from Hoihow, of whom for the last 13 days there has been no news, although they were warned of the possibility of troubles. To the south-east, about 40 miles away, there are Fathers Pitta-Lages and J. B. Lan, from whom nothing has been heard for the last week or ten days. In Hoihow itself there are still the Consuls, the Customs staff, and the missionaries, Dr. McCandless, Rev. F. P. Gilman and Dr. Lassel, who are waiting for their friends from the interior, Dr. Feray, attached to the French Consulate, Mr. Burke, British, and Mr. Perie, French Postal Agent, Mr. A. Otto and Mr. Puhlmann. It is to be hoped that nothing has happened to them, but in the present state of affairs it is impossible to feel sure. The *Clara* arrived in Hongkong harbour yesterday night bringing a further lot of refugees from Hoihow.

THE SOUTH CHINESE REFUGEES.

News has been received by the local mandarins from the North, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, stating that a large number of Southerners, holding

official posts in Peking, many of very high rank, have succeeded, after innumerable difficulties, in escaping from the capital for their homes south of the Yellow River. The Boxer leaders are said to have made quite large sums of money from the refugees, by issuing passes across the Boxer lines guaranteeing immunity from trouble and delay as far south as Chi-anghou city, on the Chihli-Shantung borders, beyond which their authority ceases, being under the jurisdiction of the pro-foreign Viceroy and Governor. The prices demanded for these passes vary according to the standing and wealth of the applicant, viz.: Tk. 5 to Tk. 2,000. Each pass or passport is worded in the usual style of such documents in China, only that it is headed by the name of the Boxer Chief who issues the passport, whilst the paper is also filled on the borders and covers with various mystic signs. Accompanying each passport is a red cotton-cloth bag to hold the paper, to protect the document from being frayed and from rough usage en route. It is believed that this exodus from Peking was actuated by the reckless atrocities of the Boxers and Prince Tuan and Tung Fuhsiang's troops, and the receipt of news of the relentless enmity of the Russian and certain other troops against all Chinese at Tientsin and Taku. According to news so far to hand, received by the local mandarins, refugees from Peking with their passports got through Chihli province unmolested by Boxers, but that as soon as they got into Shantung they met Li Ping-heng's advanced troops en route for Peking, at whose hands some of the refugees received rough handling, whilst others were robbed of their all. As other troops proceed north refugees to the south, it is feared, will find great difficulty in travelling peaceably.

GENERAL OUTPORT NEWS.

Reports from Hankow state all quiet, everything much the same as usual. H.M.S. *Pique* is moored off the Bund and a Japanese man-of-war further down the river.

H.M.S. *Linnet* is at Kiukiang, *Snipe* at Wuhu, *Hermione* at Nanking. The *Lee Yuen* took on board a large number of Chinese soldiers at Kiukiang on the 18th and disembarked them at Nanking on the 19th inst. The British and American Consuls at Chinkiang and Nanking advised the departure of all women and children from Chinkiang and Nanking by the first steamer leaving. The following missionary ladies and gentlemen from those ports arrived at Shanghai by the *Poyang* on the 20th:—From Nanking Miss Burke, Rev. Malone, Miss Dowe; from Chinkiang Mrs. Roche and two children, Mrs. de la Touche, Mrs. and Miss Weatherston.

At Ningpo everything is reported quiet, and there seems no imminent prospect of trouble there. There is a large exodus of Chinese passengers from the river ports to Shanghai, averaging from 350 to 500, many of whom are encumbered with their household impediments. The coolie class, of whom a large percentage of the passengers by these boats consists, seem to have got a scare of a most abnormal nature, and it only remains for the fleets of the Foreign Powers to establish a sense of security among the Chinese.

It is said that on hearing that the *Terrible* was coming to Chefoo, the Taotai, as a precautionary measure against accidental firing by the garrison, had the breeches of the guns of the fort removed to his Yamen. There are a great number of missionaries at Chefoo from the outlying districts awaiting the turn of events. No trouble is anticipated, and the natives are bringing in the food stuffs as usual.

MANCHURIAN AFFAIRS.

AN UNFRIENDLY VICEROY.

A correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, writing of Manchuria, says that the present Viceroy is the first to show himself distinctly unfriendly to foreigners. He is a Manchu of the Manchus, and there is no doubt that he is carrying out in Moukden the reactionary policy of the rebel Prince Tuan. Since his appointment as successor of the late Viceroy I-ko-tang-a, a vast army has been raised and drilled in Lower Manchuria. It is known that he has been busily engaged preparing plans for the defence of Moukden since the

China New Year, assisted by a foreign military officer. When the Boxer placards were exhibited on the city gates warning foreigners of their approaching doom, the Viceroy allowed them to remain. He published under his own seal a telegram, from the Lieutenant-General of the troops at Shanhaikwan, rejoicing over what was described as a glorious victory for the Chinese arms. Two thousand Christians had been killed and the foreign fleet sunk at Taku! Two days later fifty unarmed men marched in broad daylight to the largest Protestant church in Moukden and burned it. The Viceroy had a hundred thousand troops at his command, and yet not a hand was raised to hinder these incendiaries. Ten minutes would have sufficed to bring him in person to the scene of the outrage. He neither came nor sent. An hour elapsed before the hospitals and mission houses were attacked.

The Roman Catholic cathedral held out for two days. Appeal after appeal was made by Bishop Guillon for help. The Viceroy took no notice of these appeals. Why should he? The whole diabolic business was carried out under his patronage, if not at his direct command, and carried out by a few fanatics, aided by his own soldiers and the rabble. They did their work with a thoroughness that surely must have been gratifying to their Viceregal master—and when Moukden was swept clean of all things foreign he blessed the fanatics, and, so it is said, sad them and crowned them, put a sword in their hand and some strings of cash in their wallet, and sent them farther to carry on the work of foreign expulsion in other places. Since then Liaoyang and Haicheng have been visited, Russian houses and work shops levelled to the ground, and a few more hospitals and mission houses looted and burned. Probably they will avoid Newchwang. They are wiser than we think they are—if they do.

COREA.

A correspondent writes to the *N.-C. Daily News* from Seoul on the 3rd inst.:—No doubt seems to exist in the average native mind as to the outcome. The "Righteous Fist" of the yellow man will certainly triumph over the "Mailed Fist" of the white man, and the end will be that the Far East can turn over and go to sleep again for a few centuries. Do not think, however, that the average Korean's sympathies are with the Chinese, and that he would lend him a helping hand if he could. Not much! When it comes to doing anything in the matter he is supremely and unmitigatedly neutral. The Korean Government has done one very significant and creditable act in connection with this trouble. When the seriousness of the uprising became apparent, the Emperor called in the foreign representatives to an audience, and inquired if there was anything that Korea could do in the present difficulties. This showed that Korea, as far as the government was concerned, decided to cast in her lot with white man and civilisation. Prof. Martel, of the Government French School, was sent to China to keep the Government informed as to the course of events there, all of which shows that Korea wishes to be in good company. The only element of danger is the Emperor's pet tiger-cub which he is raising for his future sorrow, i.e., the pedlars' guild. They are composed of the very worst elements in the country and might, on very slight provocation, arm themselves with weapons of ignorance and prejudice and, imagining themselves invincible, like the Boxers, try to run amok among foreigners. We hear that Japan is to send 10,000 troops here, 5,000 of whom will go to the Yalu and guard the border against any irruption of the Boxers down into the peninsula. The other 5,000 are to be stationed at Chemulpo, and will be handy in case the pedlars show any disposition to double up a righteous fist.

FEAR OF TROUBLE.

The Chemulpo correspondent of the *Kobe Herald* writes on the 7th instant:—Great uneasiness is felt throughout Korea amongst a large number of people, including both foreigners and Koreans. It is feared that some uprising or trouble is near at hand. Reports of a Boxer invasion and thousands of Koreans waiting to join them, gain some credence. The China trouble has given quite an impetus to

trade in the various ports. The warehouses are being opened, and grain, chiefly rice, is now laying in huge heaps on the bunds ready for exportation to Japan. To add to the anxiety Japanese soldiers are put on patrol during the day in the Japanese settlement. The presence of Russian warships in good numbers also causes us to think we are near some change, or trouble, which indeed must come before long.

Some weeks ago the Chinese Minister when passing through one of the southern ports, and met by his own countrymen was heard to say, when being asked by one of them if the report was true about the attack on the foreign residents,—"Oh, we will soon get rid of them, out of the country." A gentleman who speaks Chinese was standing near enough to hear his boasting remark and a very hot conversation followed. It is a fact that the resident Chinese in Corea feel in danger and for the present are eating very humble pie, as the least act of theirs savouring of Boxerism, will make another act on their part impossible. The whole of the Chinese have left Vladivostok and on calling at Fusan to learn where they may proceed to were kept on board like so many convicts, having to remain some days in Fusan on account of a death on board.

We ought to feel quite safe, considering the assurance given by the Emperor of Corea the other day, when he asked all the foreign representatives to meet him at the palace. He assured them they were perfectly safe in his kingdom and he could promise them he would preserve order and give every protection to life and property. Not only was this said, but a gallant general of the Korean government thought it would be a good thing for Corea to send a thousand soldiers to assist the powers in quelling the rebellion in China, which the Emperor also said was a good thing. Personally I do not think there is the least need of fear of a rising of any Boxer element against foreigners here.

What the feeling is with regard to the matters between Japan and Russia is quite another matter. Corea is divided against itself. It is certain both countries have a power in the ruling of the affairs of the government although they work behind the scenes, and Koreans, like other people, can see that the China question may bring about a Korean question.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

THE PROTECTION OF FOREIGNERS.

By the courtesy of H.E. the Governor we are enabled to publish the following translation of a letter from the Acting Viceroy of Canton to Consul B. C. G. Scott, enclosing a copy of a proclamation which embodies an Imperial Decree of the 17th July:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE ACTING VICEROY
TO MR. CONSUL SCOTT.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that on 20th July I received an Imperial Decree, dated 17th July, ordering that protection should be afforded to foreigners, and missionaries of all nationalities. This I have embodied in a proclamation and I am issuing instructions to all the civil and military authorities to zealously protect the lives of foreign merchants, missionaries, and converts and all their valuables and property, whether at the open ports, or in the cities, villages or market towns; no laxity is to be allowed.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the Draft of the Proclamation referred to.

I have, etc.,

(Seal of Acting Viceroy).

B. C. G. Scott, Esquire,
H.B.M. Consul,
Canton.

PROCLAMATION EMBODYING AN IMPERIAL DECREE.

I had the honour to receive on 20th July, transmitted to me by telegraph, a decree dated 17th July, as follows:—

"The present conflict between China and the Powers originated in quarrels between the ordinary people and the Christians. Subsequently military hostilities commenced on account of the seizure of the Taku Forts. The Throne, rightly having deep regard for International friendship, was even at that stage unwilling lightly to break off relations and issued repeated orders for the protection of the Legations, be-

sides instructing the Provincial Authorities to protect the missionaries. Now hostilities are still afoot, and the foreigners, merchants and others in China all require protection. Let therefore all the Tartar Generals, Viceroys, and Governors, make the necessary investigations and zealously give protection as is due by Treaty to all Foreigners, whether they are merchants and missionaries at the Ports, or living in the Prefectures or Districts of the interior. There must be no laxity.

"Last month the Japanese Secretary was assassinated, to our deep horror and dismay; then, with short delay, followed the murder of the German Minister. Now the latter was appointed to Peking to conduct international relations, and his sudden assassination filled us with great grief and affliction. It is our duty again to insist upon the arrest and punishment of the murderers.

"The Prefect of Shun Tien Fu and the Chihli Viceroy must instruct their subordinates each to make proper investigations, as to the losses and harm, except those caused directly by military operations, to the property of Missionaries and foreigners generally, in consequence of the rebel disturbances after the commencement of hostilities at Tientsin. When the various records are collected together action can be taken upon them.

"The recent acts of arson, robbery and attacks committed against law-abiding subjects by the revolted people are signal violations of what is right. Let the high provincial and military authorities make enquiry into the actual state of affairs and crush the bands of rebels as opportunity offers, so as to stop disorder at its fountain head.

"Promulgate this Decree."

It is accordingly my duty to promulgate this, and I call upon you, people and soldiers of the whole province, to learn and mark that this present conflict in the North arose from the disturbances of the "Boxer" rebels, and was not premeditated by either the Central Government or the Foreign Powers.

Now the natives and foreigners at all the ports are mutually at peace, and trade goes on as usual. The authorities must, of course, as ordered by the Decree, afford to merchants and missionaries alike at the ports and in the inland Prefectures and Districts, the protection guaranteed by the Treaties. Lawless ruffians who deliberately disobey the Edict, start rumours to disturb men's minds, and collect together to make disturbances, will most certainly be at once caught and straightway heavily punished. If any ruffians or members of illegal societies make pretences for giving annoyance in order to bring about a rising, troops are stationed in large numbers everywhere, and these will at once use severe measures to repress them. As to the soldiery and police, if these cause trouble or vexation, or do harm in any way, they will be punished according to military law.

Let all tremble and obey.

THE RECEPTION OF LI HUNG-CHANG.

The following letter appears in the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 20th inst.:
TO THE EDITOR OF THE "NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

Sir,—The Committee of this Association sent the following telegram yesterday morning to the Hongkong Committee:—

"Understanding that the Governor is giving a guard of honour to Viceroy Li Hung-chang, would urge you, considering the situation at Peking, to protest against any official mark of cordiality being extended to this representative."

The Hongkong Committee replied as follows:—"Too late—mischief done—received this morning early, seventeen guns, full guard, streets lined with troops."

Apparently Li Hung-chang is no longer Viceroy of Canton with whom official relations were established, but claims to be Viceroy of the rebel province of Chihli, appointed either by the Empress Dowager, or by the rebel Government of Prince Tuan, with whom the Powers are at war.

If his means of communication are such that he can receive an Edict conferring the appointment he must be in a position to obtain information regarding the foreign residents of Peking, and if information, satisfactory guarantees

should be forthcoming as to their safety. So long as there continue to be grave reason to fear for the lives of foreign men, women, and children in the capital of China, it appears to the committee of this Association that no British official is justified in recognising, much less in honouring, as Her Majesty's representative, a Chinese official representing the political party responsible for the existing condition of affairs.

As showing the opinion formed on this subject in England, when the first intimation of Li's impending appointment was made known, the following extract from a leading article in the *Times* of the 12th of June is of interest:—

The Powers are not likely to be fooled again into tolerance of a *regime* which openly flouts them one and all; and not even the anticipated appearance on the scene of that wily and well-known *deus ex machina* Li Hung-chang is likely to produce its wonted effect. With the reputation of a reformer, Li Hung-chang is in reality one of the most astute instruments of reaction, and his command of the methods of Oriental negotiation has more than once enabled him to play off China against the Powers and the Powers against each other. But that was when they were only too ready to play the game themselves. They now know that it is no game they are playing, but a grim conflict in which they are all equally concerned for the elementary interests of Western civilisation in China, and so long as they are united it is certain that neither Li Hung-chang nor even the Empress-Dowager herself will be allowed to prevail against them."

—I am, etc.,

F. ANDERSON,
Chairman, China Association.

19th July.

A DAY SCHOOL FOR KOWLOON.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR LAYS THE FOUNDATION
STONE.

MR. HO TUNG'S GENEROSITY.

One of the most pressing wants experienced by the residents of Kowloon has been a day school to which they could send their children. The matter has been talked over for years, but no way out of the difficulty was apparent until Mr. Ho Tung came forward and generously offered to provide \$12,000 for the erection of a suitable building if the Government would give a site. Needless to say this offer was readily accepted. A capital site at the corner of Kimberley Road and Robinson Road was soon forthcoming. Messrs. Palmer and Turner prepared the plans, and now the building of a school which will accommodate some 200 children is being rapidly pushed forward.

The foundation stone was laid by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) on Friday afternoon, the 20th inst., in the presence of a large company. His Excellency was accompanied by Lady Blake, Miss Blake, and Lord Suirdale, and there were also present, among others, the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G. (Acting Colonial Secretary), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. Ho Tung, Bishop Hoare, Drs. Hartigan, Clark, Thomson, and Gibson, Consul Volpicelli, Messrs. J. Dyer Ball, H. H. Gompertz, David Gillies, A. M. Marshall, G. Piercy, jun., A. J. May, E. Robinson, and G. de Champeaux. A large mat-shed, provided with a gallery, and gaily decorated, had been erected for the accommodation of the spectators.

Mr. HO TUNG, in opening the proceedings, said:—Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, when we look into the future and see what possibilities may be brought in the train of this simple ceremony to-day, I think there may be just cause for gratification that I have been privileged to take the part that I am taking in the sphere of education in this dependency of the colony of Hongkong. I feel, therefore, all the more grateful to your Excellency for having consented to lay the foundation stone of the Kowloon School this afternoon. Kowloon, until within very recent years, was only a suburb of Hongkong, with picturesque country houses, green lawns, and well laid-out gardens, verdant with semi-tropical foliage. But times have changed and Kowloon has changed with them. From a quiet, residen-

tial resort, it has been transformed into a busy bustling place with dockyards equal to the best in the East and warehouses to store the wealth of manufacturing centres of Europe and America in transit to all points of the compass around us. In short, with a prospective railway to connect this with the largest city in South China, Kowloon bids fair to become quite an important township in the near future. It follows, therefore, that a thriving place such as Kowloon is, must have drawn to it quite a large and respectable community of its own. Indeed, with its Dockyard hands and the employees of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., it may be said that the peninsula has become quite a colony by itself. And so it seems that the time has arrived when educational facilities should be provided for the youth of the place. In the attempts which unfortunately failed of the Kowloon School Committee to provide these facilities on a permanent basis, it might be seen that the building of a school-house cannot be longer deferred. The difficulty the committee had principally to deal with was the question of a suitable building. Fully appreciating the value of education, I felt almost bound to manifest that appreciation in a tangible form. From the discussion which has appeared in the local Press from time to time it was evident that the Kowloon residents were most eager to have a school provided for their children. They felt it was an imperative need, and sympathy was with them. Seeing, however, that no building vote for Kowloon could be included in the Colonial Estimates until a surplus of \$100,000 in the colony's revenue over expenditure could be shown it was clear that the residents of this suburb had to wait many a long and weary year for the school, especially when we bear in mind the decision of the Secretary of State that the development of our new territory is to be paid for out of the colony's current revenue. And so it was that I made the offer to Your Excellency to provide the funds necessary for the erection of a school-house—(applause)—on condition that Government was to grant the site. To-day's proceedings are the first fruit of the acceptance of the offer by the Secretary of State. As the donor of the Kowloon School and as a member of the Governing Body appointed by Your Excellency to manage the affairs of the future institution, I hope I may be permitted to express the wish that while European children will be most welcome to derive the benefits from the instruction to be imparted in the school, no effort should be spared to encourage Chinese parents to send their children to an institution where they will learn to become useful men and women in society and loyal citizens to the state. One word must be said as to the object of the school. It is embodied in the first of a series of resolutions adopted at a meeting for the discussion of the lines on which the school should be conducted. At that meeting the Inspector of Schools, Dr. Wright, and Mr. Reid (as representing the Kowloon residents) were present. I believe it to be a maxim that it is the duty of the State to provide primary education only. Secondary education does not, therefore, enter within the scope of the Kowloon school, which shall be a school in which an ordinary education shall be given of such a nature as to enable the scholars to enter in the ordinary course for the Oxford Local and similar examinations. As observed by Mr. R. J. Wilkinson, acting Inspector of Schools in the Straits Settlement, in his official report on the Educational Department just issued, let us look forward hopefully to the time when either the Oxford or Cambridge junior and perhaps even the Senior certificate of either of these universities might be considered "the proper leaving certificate" to be obtained by boys before they quit school. In so far as this result represents a more thorough knowledge of English and a more careful cultivation of the mind, it is very much to be desired. In conclusion, let me ask your Excellency to lay the foundation stone of the future Kowloon school, whence I sincerely hope will flow yet another fountain of knowledge. May the European boys and girls resident in the Peninsula derive their full measure of benefits from the Kowloon School, and may it help to feed the streams that work for the dissemination of knowledge and shed the rays of light such as we understand by modern civilization amongst the many millions

of people, on the threshold of whose door we stand, for their individual happiness and for the peace and prosperity of their empire now labouring under severe trials as the consequence of the darkness which has metaphorically enveloped it. (Applause.)

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR said—Mr. Ho Tung, ladies and gentlemen, allow me in the first instance to heartily re-echo the sentiments so eloquently spoken by Mr. Ho Tung at the conclusion of his observations, and to thank him on behalf of the community for the gift of this school, the foundation stone of which I am now about to lay. The difficulty of a school in Kowloon affording facilities for the education of better-class children on this side of the harbour has been a difficulty of some years standing. Some few years ago a matshed was erected but it was blown down by a typhoon. There have been difficulties about collecting the money to build a proper school, difficulties about the arrangements under which it should be built and under which it should be entitled to the Government grant in aid. These difficulties were overcome about the spring of last year, when Mr. Ho Tung came forward with a munificence which marks him as one of those noble minds who are always ready to utilise their wealth for the benefit of their fellow-men. (Applause.) Mr. Ho Tung offered to give \$12,000 for the erection of this school on condition that the Government supplied the site, and the result of that agreement is our meeting here to-day at this agreeable function. Ladies and gentlemen, it does not require any great faculty of prophecy to foretell that before the silver has streaked the hair of the first scholars of this school the greater part of this Peninsula will be covered by the residences of a population which will probably rival that of Victoria in numbers; and among that great commercial community will be many men, I have no doubt, who will have owed their first education to this school, which is about to be raised as a practical evidence of the sympathy of Mr. Ho Tung with the educational needs of the community. (Applause.) Perhaps in the future, when primary education has advanced sufficiently to require some further facilities for education another benefactor, animated by the example of Mr. Ho Tung, may come forward with a gift of a secondary school, where education will be proceeded with—not an education merely of the cultivation of memory, but an education where the mental and moral powers will be fully developed. (Applause.) Mr. Ho Tung in his address mentioned the great crisis through which the people of China are passing. He attributes it, and I think rightly, to the ignorance and the darkness by which these misguided people are enveloped. Even now, ladies and gentlemen, when we are tortured with anxiety to know the fate of those who are shut up in Peking, and when every sea is being ploughed by the keels of hurrying vessels carrying from all the great powers tens of thousands of armed men to effect a rescue or, if unhappily the worst fears should be verified, to exact a stern retribution for the greatest and bloodiest international crime of history, even now let us hope that when the allied armies have shattered the pretensions to occult powers of those mad fanatics now rushing on to their doom and brushed aside all armed opposition, let us hope that when the thunders of a just retribution have died away the dawn of a new era may arise for the people of China—(applause)—and that they may awake from the unreceptive slumber of 4,000 years. When that day comes, a day which we may not and probably will not see, then the people of China must, if they accept progress, accept it from an education such as ours, which teaches men to think and not merely to copy, and to cull from the world around them those priceless gems of knowledge which lie at the feet of every man whose eyes are opened by a trained and educated intelligence. Again, Mr. Ho Tung, I thank you on behalf of the community for this school which you have so generously given, and I hope, and I am sure the hope is joined in by everybody here, that in years to come the education here given will be a blessing to many men and women who will here drink the first draught of that knowledge which leads to power and if properly used to happiness and contentment. (Applause.)

His Excellency then formally laid the stone, saying: "I declare this stone well and truly laid and I dedicate this building to the future benefit of Kowloon." On the stone is the inscription:—"This stone was laid by His Excellency Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., Governor of Hongkong, 21st July, 1900." A handsome silver trowel was presented to His Excellency. It bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Sir Henry Arthur Blake, G.C.M.G., from Ho Tung, of Hongkong, in commemoration of the laying of the foundation stone of the Kowloon School, 20th July, 1900."

On the call of Mr. Ho Tung, three hearty cheers were given for His Excellency, followed by three for Lady Blake, and on the call of His Excellency three cheers were given for Mr. Ho Tung.

This concluded the proceedings.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

The suspicion that Bombay owes the introduction of plague within its limits to communication with Hongkong, says the *Times of India*, gives us a certain interest in the sanitary fortunes of that town. Its plague history has a special claim upon our attention. If analogy counts for much there is little in this that encourages the hope of an early disappearance of plague from Bombay. Hongkong was first visited with the epidemic in 1894—two years before it was detected in Bombay, and in 1899 plague was still prevalent on the island, the sixth visitation lasting from March until September. It never reached the proportions of the earlier outbreaks. In March there were 25 cases, in April 101, in May 421, in June 514. Then, when the maximum mean monthly temperature was reached, the epidemic gradually decreased. There were 263 cases in July, 86 in August, and 57 in September. Here again we have an illustration of the baffling caprice of plague incidence in relation to temperature. In Mesopotamia, the plague disappears with the cold weather; in Karachi it has been at its worst in the hot season; in Bombay, as in Hongkong, the approach of high temperature has been a signal for decline. In Hongkong as in Bombay the plague has shown a tendency to cling persistently to chosen seats of infection. In spite of all measures of disinfection eleven per cent. of the cases occurred in houses infected in the previous visitation. The rat, we learn from Hongkong experience, seems determined to puzzle enquiries into the part that he plays in plague. How is it, if the rat is the most potent disseminator of plague, that the West Point, the district of Hongkong where plague was most severe last year, was never so free of rats as just before the outbreak? Plague notwithstanding, and despite the insanitary condition of the Chinese quarters, Hongkong is able to show, statistically at all events, a sanitary condition which we may well envy. With a population of over a quarter of a million there was last year a death-rate of only 23.8 per mille; this included plague mortality; had this been excluded, the rate would have been about 18 per mille. This seems excellent, but in reality Hongkong is not quite the city of health that the bare death statistics reveal. The fact that the birth-rate was only a little more than four per mille shows that the population is less dependent upon that source than average towns for its increase, and that the factor of infant mortality therefore has a subordinate place in its vital statistics. Hongkong, in fact, maintains its population chiefly by immigration instead of by birth, and keeps numbers down by emigrations instead of by deaths. The fact that last year there were 110,000 Chinese immigrants, and 60,000 emigrants, explains the relative insignificance of births and deaths amongst the vital data of the town. The young and the old are alike largely eliminated from the tables in this way; and once again we are warned that things are not what they seem, and that it is well sometimes not to let even figures speak entirely for themselves.

We understand that the men who went away with the *Cheung Yuen* launch have been captured at Canton, where they will be dealt with much more expeditiously than the crew who were imprisoned in Hongkong.

THE LIGHT-DRAUGHT GUNBOAT "ARGUS."

The French river gunboat *Argus*, the erection of which has just been completed at Kowloon Docks, made her preliminary steam trial on the 14th inst. This vessel was built to the order of the French Government by Messrs. John I. Thornycroft & Co., London, and was shipped in sections with her machinery and outfit for re-erection in Hongkong.

The last of the cases were delivered on the 3rd instant, and including fitting together the hull, mounting superstructure and battery, fitting the machinery and auxiliaries, the work was completed and the vessel ready for steam on the evening of the 13th—ten working days.

The *Argus* is a sister ship to the *Woodcock* and *Woodlark* recently erected at Shanghai for service on the Yangtze. The principal dimensions are length 145 feet, beam 23 feet, depth 6 feet, and draft of water with 30 tons on board about 2 feet 2 inches. She is propelled by twin screw engines of 540 indicated horse power driving four turbine propellers.

The official trial was made on the 17th inst., when a mean speed of 13 knots was maintained during six consecutive runs on the measured mile, after which the vessel was taken in charge by Capt. Henry Florius, Lieut. de Vaisseau, of the French Navy. Capt. Florius commands a crew of 30 Europeans. On arrival of the guns from France the *Argus* will take her post as patrol on the West River. A second vessel of the same type as the *Vigilante* has arrived and the sections are now being discharged from the *Sado Maru*.—Contributed.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

The Honorary Treasurer (Mr. R. T. Wright) begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following contributions to the above Fund.

Further subscriptions will be thankfully received.

Already Acknowledged	\$36,702.17
R. M. S. <i>Empress of India</i>	333.00
Entertainments in Club Lusitano	324.43
Concert in Shameen by the Portuguese Residents	304.50
Incognito	250.00
Captain Scott's Lecture in the City Hall	152.05
Concert on R. M. S. <i>Empress of China</i>	114.12
J. P. Laird	15.00
W. E. Hipwell	10.00
Wm. Paton, Swatow	1000.
Subscribed at Tamsui and Twatutia:—	
R. de B. Layard	52.63
Isabel Layard	52.62
F. Ashton	50.00
F. B. Marshall	50.00
F. S.	50.00
T. Harrington	31.58
Geo. S. Beebe	21.05
C. H. Best	20.00
A. F. Gardiner	20.00
H. P. White	20.00
"A Fine"	20.00
A. N. Wilkinson	20.00
J. M. Tait	10.00
H. Bathurst	6.32

\$38,639.47

A further remittance of Rs. 6,000 has been forwarded to India, making Rs. 56,000 remitted to date.

On the evening of the 17th instant the following Express, in Malay, was circulated among the Straits-born Chinese in Singapore: I wish to make known to all my Straits-born Chinese friends that now these beasts and uncivilized Manchus have begun to break the laws of the world. We all are very thankful that we are under the British Flag. We all must show how thankful we are to the British Government by asking leave to go and help the British soldiers in China by fighting with them against the Boxers and the Manchus. Whoever wishes to join will please to send their names to me. I am, &c., Wee Thiam Tew, Advocate and Solicitor, Singapore.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

A meeting of members interested in obtaining subscription griffins for the next Hongkong Races was held at the Hongkong Hotel on the 21st inst. at noon.

The Hon. R. M. Gray presided and there were also present Messrs. Lewis, McKie, Moxon, Brown, Gresson, Brutton, Kelly, Wibel, etc., and T. F. Hough (Clerk of the Course.)

The HAIRMAN informed the meeting that they had been called together to consider what steps should be taken to secure a supply of subscription griffins for our next Races. The Clerk of the Course had been in communication with the Shanghai Horse Bazaar, who had informed him that they could hold out no hopes of being able to fill the order this year. An offer to supply Australian ponies having been made it would rest with the subscribers to say whether the deficiency should be made up from that source.

After considerable discussion it was decided to import Australians, which had been offered at \$250 each, landed here with following stipulations, viz.:—

"All ponies to be broken to saddle, 4 to 6 years old, minimum height 13 hands 2 inches, maximum 14 hands 2 inches, none but geldings to be sent, on which understanding the following resolution was proposed by the Chinaman:—

"That this meeting authorises the Clerk of the Course to start a list of subscribers to the subscription griffin circular and to open negotiations with Mr. Bell re supply of Australian ponies as subscription griffins for our next Race meeting."

This was seconded by Mr. J. H. LEWIS and carried unanimously.

We have since been informed that 25 have already been subscribed for.

From our advertisement columns members will gather that the list will be open until Saturday next, 28th instant.

UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL AGENCY, LIMITED.

The fourth annual general meeting of the United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Ltd., was held on the 25th inst. in the offices of Messrs. Dodwell and Co., Limited, general managers. Mr. G. H. Medhurst presided and the others present were Messrs. C. S. Sharp, T. Skinner, A. Ritchie, A. Stewart, E. G. Barrett, E. G. Smith and C. N. Young (secretary).

The CHAIRMAN said he had the pleasure of meeting the shareholders with a report which, he thought, would be acceptable to them all, and with their permission he would take the report and accounts as read. In November last it was found necessary by the General Managers to make a call of two dollars a share, in order to meet the growing needs of the Company's business and, as a consequence of this, they were able to thoroughly extend their operations. At the last annual meeting the General Managers pointed out that they had earned a dividend but had not the wherewithal to pay it. This time they were in the position of having earned a dividend and having the money to pay it. The business during the year under review had been satisfactory, and there was no reason why it should not continue to be so, but they must bear in mind that they had to meet increased expenditure, and the Directors therefore recommended the placing of a sum of \$2,000 to the reserve fund. They had succeeded in wiping off \$1,750 off the cost of the launch *Gladitor* and \$317.85 off the value of the furniture and fittings. The stock had been very carefully looked after by Mr. Brewitt and they were satisfied it was of the best quality and of a suitable nature for the trade of Hongkong. The launch had been well kept up and was in excellent condition, and was now standing in the books at \$5,000, whereas it was worth from ten to thirteen thousand dollars. With these few remarks he, the chairman, moved the adoption of the report and accounts. If any gentleman had any questions to ask he would be pleased to answer them.

There being no questions Mr. SHARP said he had much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts. He congratulated the shareholders on the position in which the Company was and on the excellent report which the

Directors had been able to place before them. He trusted that the past year was only the precursor of many such years to come.

There was no amendment and the motion was declared carried.

The **CHAIRMAN** said the only other business before them was the appointment of an auditor. Mr. W. H. Potts was eligible for re-election and he (the Chairman) moved that he be re-elected for the ensuing year.

Mr. SKINNER seconded.

Carried.

This was all the business. It was intimated that dividend warrants would be ready that day.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 21st July.

THE DEPARTURE OF LI HUNG-CHANG.

On the afternoon of the 16th ult. H.E. the Viceroy Li Hung-chang deputed the prefect She of Kwangchowfu and two commanders of the army to send the Seal of the Viceroyalty, together with an Imperial edict and other official documents, in a procession preceded by a number of soldiers and runners carrying flags and beating gongs, to the *yamen* of the provincial Governor Tak, appointing him Acting Viceroy of the provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi.

On the morning of the 17th, shortly after nine a.m., the Committee of the Kwong Chai Hospital, of Shingching, Shutsin and other hospitals, together with the principal merchants and gentry of Canton, carrying with them lighted lanterns, painted with large characters "Respectfully we detain your Excellency," went to call on the Viceroy in his *yamen*. They were ushered into the reception room and seated. His Excellency addressed them, saying that as he was summoned to proceed North on a mission of peace he dared not for a moment disobey the Imperial order. As soon as he had arranged all matters he would return to the South to take up his post; meantime he sincerely wished that in his absence the merchants and people here would do their duties as good subjects, and pursue their respective callings peacefully. On departing they bade him *bon voyage*.

Between 10 and 11 a.m. His Excellency and suite arrived at the Government wharf, where a number of mandarins, civil and military, and the soldiers of all the regiments standing in line, were there to receive him. He went into the Yat Kan pavilion where he was entertained with tea and cakes, and after the exchange of a few complimentary words he rose and bade them goodbye, and was carried on board the *Auping*; his confidential attendants Lao Hok-shun and Wong Chun-shien also went with him to the North.

Canton is quiet, and business is going on the same as usual, there being no sign of any trouble. The Chinese authorities have repeatedly promised and guaranteed the safety of the foreign residents of Shameen and they also say that the soldiery is reliable.

THE IMPORT OF ARMS.

By order of the late Viceroy Li Hung-chang a large quantity of arms and ammunitions were shipped by the gunboat *Kwongkang* the other day from Hongkong to Canton, and stored in the ammunition department.

Being short of arms and ammunitions for frontier defence the governor Ting, of Yunnan province, wired to the Viceroy here for a supply of arms; so His Excellency sent by the Magistrate Yeong 400 Lee Metford quick-firing rifles, and 200,000 cartridges, 1,400 Mauser rifles and 240,000 cartridges.

PRECAUTIONS AND RUMOURS.

Pok Chai Hospital (known by the name of Dr. Kerr's hospital), established by the American Mission, has been doing a great deal of good for the natives; consequently by order of the late Viceroy a guard boat is lying opposite it, and guard-house is placed behind for its protection.

In consequence of the wild rumours lately spread by the rogues, vagabonds, and opium smokers in Canton and elsewhere, the rich as well as the middle classes have taken their valuables, such as jadestone ornaments, pearls, diamonds, curios, and valuable silk clothing into the pawnshops and pawned them at cheap rates

for safe keeping, that they might have money to be sent to Hongkong or elsewhere. The Magistrate of Yeongchow has issued a notification to pacify the people and exhort them to be quiet and not be beguiled by any revilers, or let the pawnbrokers take advantage of them.

It is said that many rich people have gone to Hongkong or Macao to invest their money in house property.

A FAMINE IN LINCHOW.

In the department of Linchow, in Kwangtung, there is a famine owing to the scarcity of rice, caused by the flood overflowing the river banks, followed by a great destruction of crops. The natives were reduced to eating grass, roots, and barks of trees, and the robbers of the adjacent villages took the opportunity of falling upon them, and carried away their women and children to sell. The elders of the department came to Canton, and presented a petition to the Viceroy, asking for succour.

ANTI-MARRIAGE SISTERHOODS.

There is a peculiar custom in the villages of Tai Leong and Shun Tak (Kwangtung) which may be well characterised as misanthropical, and is highly deprecated even among the natives. Nearly all the girls there have a habit of swearing sisterhood to each other and taking vows of celibacy, looking upon their future husbands as enemies. On the third morning of the wedding, which is generally contracted by their parents, they go home, and refuse to return to their husbands again. Some of them will rather pay money to their husbands to buy concubines, and others who are poor and cannot afford to do so prepare to die together, by poison, by throwing themselves into the river, by cutting their throats, or by hanging themselves, so as to be free from the thralldom of their lords. About the middle of this month in the village of Shun Tak a certain Mr. Wong felt restless and could not sleep at night, as if some evil omen had taken possession of his mind, so he got up and, in the small hours of the morning, there being bright moonlight, went out for a stroll to give vent to his pent-up feeling. On reaching the bank of the river he saw to his surprise a group of six girls crying and holding each others' hands. The girls on seeing him embraced and threw themselves into the river. He ran and tried to catch them, but it was too late. He raised a hue and cry and yelled out "Save life." The neighbours were startled from slumber, and running out from their houses used every possible means to rescue these six foolish and infatuated creatures from their watery grave, and carried them home in a half-dead state.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR SWATOW CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 23rd July.

VISIT OF A MAN-OF-WAR.

On the 17th instant the U.S.S. *Princeton* arrived from Hongkong, but unfortunately left us again on the 21st for Amoy. After the arrival of the *Princeton* the German Consul paid his call on board and a salute was fired from the ship, which caused a momentary panic among the crowds of Chinese. As soon as the firing of guns from the *Princeton* was heard the ignorant classes of Chinese started running about the streets, shouting "Tehiang, tehian," by which they meant that Swatow was in distress, being bombarded. Their fear in that respect was very soon allayed when they discovered the true state of affairs. It nevertheless shows what is in the minds of the Chinese.

A MISSIONARY ATTACKED.

A few days ago while a German Missionary was leaving Chowchowfu for here, he was attacked by a crowd of rowdies and had his head badly hurt. At the time of writing I could not ascertain as to the cause of the attack on the missionary.

TROUBLE ON NAMOA ISLAND.

I hear that the native Christians there had their houses plundered by the unruly inhabitants that abound there in great numbers. The missionaries reported the matter to the British Consul who sent his man and made some strong representations to the Ching Tai of Namoa. The outcome of this was that the man of the British Consulate was seized by the furious crowd of Namoa, who demanded that

he be decapitated by the Ching Tai. In the meantime the Chinaman of the Consulate it still kept by the Namoa rowdies.

A BOXER PLACARD.

The *Kingsing*, which arrived here from Newchwang a few days ago, had on board a missionary and his wife who had escaped with their lives only, from the interior of Newchwang. They are making a round trip by the *Kingsing*. The said missionary, who was on shore here, visited the city and saw a placard posted in one of the streets which read that the Europeans will be exterminated on the 1st day of the 8th Moon. This placard is to all appearances the outcome of the Boxer disturbance up North. There is a long time before the 1st day of the 8th moon arrives and I trust by that time everything will be quiet again.

KUNG YI GOING SOUTH.

I hear from a reliable Chinese source that is reported that Kung Yi is going as Li's successor to Canton. Kung Yi is Prince Tuan's confederate and not by any means friendly to foreigners.

AN ADDITION AND A CORRECTION.

Later.

I am informed that the German missionary who was attacked in Chowchowfu, arrived there in a boat from Kiaying, en route for here. It appears that a Chinaman was angling in the river of Chowchowfu, and he accused the boat in which the missionary was of having spoilt his catch, and consequently trouble ensued, during which the missionary was stoned by the Chinese and had his head cut. On arrival here the missionary reported the matter to the Consul and to the Taotai.

Anent the trouble on Namoa Island, I have to correct a mistake which I made, to wit, that the man of the British Consulate is not in the hands of the Namoa rowdies, but is for safety in the Ching Tai's *yamen*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

AN APPEAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
St. Peter's Seamen's Church,
Hongkong, 20th July, 1900.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to make an appeal through your columns for donations of reading matter for the use of sailors visiting this port? Magazines, illustrated journals, and newspapers are especially welcome, and will as a rule be new to those to whom they are given. Parcels of literature may be sent to the manager of the Star Coffee House, 13, D'Aguilar Street, or to the manager of the Seamen's Institute, Kowloon.

Thanking you in anticipation, I am, yours etc.,

J. H. FRANCE.

LITERATURE FOR THE WOUNDED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
2, Morrison Hill,
Hongkong, 23rd July.

SIR,—Will you allow me to appeal to the generous people of Hongkong on behalf of our wounded in the North of China? My appeal is for literature. Any thing that will amuse, interest and instruct will be useful. Distinctly religious books and papers will be appreciated by many. Please send parcels marked "North China Field Force," and send them to Messrs. Watson & Co., who has kindly consented to receive such parcels.—Yours, etc.,

C. BONE,
Wesleyan Chaplain.

On the 23rd inst., at the offices of the Public Works Department, Mr. G. J. W. King offered for competition three lots of Crown land. Kowloon Marine lot 69, which contains 139,122 square feet, was sold to Mr. A. Shelton Hooper for \$45,200 (upset \$20,868). Kowloon Marine lot 70 and 71 were bought by Messrs. Denison and Ram. The former, which contains 14,172 feet, fetched \$12,240 (upset \$2,126) and the latter, which contains 15,263, \$12,310 (upset \$2,290.)

HONGKONG.

The addition to the Register of qualified Medical and Surgical Practitioners in the Colony of Mr. Robert Gibson is notified in the *Gazette*.

The plague cases in the Colony from the beginning of the year to noon on the 27th inst. were 961 and the deaths 904, the last week giving 36 cases and 33 deaths.

Last week's return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum shows that 398 non-Chinese and 154 Chinese visited the former institution, 157 non-Chinese and 1,782 Chinese the latter.

We regret to have to record the death of Captain S. W. Goggin, late of the Canton steamer *Honam*, on the 23rd instant, at the age of 57 years. Captain Goggin was for many years in the service of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company, and was well known and highly respected by Hongkong and Canton residents.

At the Magistracy on the 21st inst. a gunner in the Asiatic Artillery charged a Chinaman with assault. He said he was doing sentry duty at the Barracks yesterday when he had occasion to 'move on' a crowd of Chinese who had gathered to watch the buglers' practice. One of the Chinese threw a stone at him. His Worship admonished the defendant and sentenced him to two months' hard labour.

A Chinaman who was fined \$2 on the 26th inst. for causing an obstruction complained that the Indian constable who arrested him ill-treated him by kicking and knocking him about. Mr. Hazeland told him that he could take a summons out against the constable if he wished to do so. The constable is evidently a new hand, and His Worship warned him against ill-using his prisoners.

On Wednesday night Sergeant Cameron saw a Chinaman coming off the premises of the Cement Company at Kowloon carrying some iron bars. He arrested him, and on the 26th inst. the man was brought before Mr. Hazeland. He said a man employed at the works had asked him to come down and carry the iron bars to his house, promising him ten cents if he would do so. He was sentenced to a month's hard labour.

A shopkeeper at Shauiwan was on the 24th inst. charged with carrying ammunition without a permit. A constable found him in Bonham Strand with 300 rounds of ammunition. It was made clear that the man was taking the ammunition to a junk for the purpose of selling it to the people on board in a legitimate manner. Under the circumstances the man was only fined \$10, the ammunition being forfeited.

A private in the Madras Light Infantry appeared at the Magistracy on the 25th inst. to prefer a charge of theft against an unemployed coolie named Tseung Tai. The complainant said that he and four others were sent into a shop to buy some brass and copper for the Army department. Three of the men went inside and the complainant and another man remained outside, and while they were there the defendant came towards him and snatched his purse, which was hanging out of his pocket by a piece of string. He gave chase, caught the defendant, and gave him into custody. The purse contained a rupee and 18 twenty cent pieces. The defendant was sent to prison for two months.

A Chinese seaman named Chu Tai Ching, employed on the *Pakhoi*, was charged with disorderly conduct. It appears that at about seven o'clock on Monday night a lukong was near the Canton wharf when he saw the defendant looking at some games. He then began to make a noise, and on being asked what was the matter he replied that he had lost tens of dollars and commenced to cry and lament over his loss. The man then attempted to jump into the harbour, but was stopped by the lukong, who took him into custody.—His Worship: Where did you get the money which you lost from?—The defendant: I borrowed it from my friends.—His Worship: What do you say about attempting to commit suicide?—The defendant: After I had lost my money I wanted to commit suicide. His Worship: You must not do that; it is against the law.—The defendant (weeping): I have lost all my money, and I cannot live in the world.—The defendant was bound over, in the sum of \$50, to come up for judgment when called upon. The boatswain undertook to see the man on board the *Yuensang*.

For stealing a dollar's worth of copper from the Naval Yard a coolie was sentenced on the 20th inst. to two months' hard labour.

Since the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance came into operation at the beginning of the year \$2,000 have been paid in fines for breaches of the same.

The five men arrested for committing an armed robbery near Shatin were brought before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy on the 26th inst. Evidence was given as to the prisoners being found in possession of the stolen property, and the case was adjourned.

A fatal accident of a somewhat extraordinary character took place at the East Point Sugar Refinery on the night of the 17th inst. A coolie was in charge of a boiling pan when a piece of wood dropped in. It was at once thrown up by the machinery, and catching the coolie somewhere on the body killed him on the spot.

The other night a sampan man reported to No. 7 Police Station that his wife had mysteriously disappeared. A search was instituted and on the 16th inst. the body was found by P. C. George in the harbour opposite Connaught Road. There was a bad cut on the head. It is understood that the woman fell overboard, and that the cut was caused by a passing vessel.

An Indian boy who had been found wandering about the colony appeared before Mr. Hazeland on the 23rd inst. In answer to His Worship, he said he came over with some soldiers from Calcutta. He was a follower. He came ashore, and while he was ashore the vessel he came in went away. His Worship said that the boy was evidently a camp follower. The military authorities ought not to allow these boys ashore without someone to look after them.

A man of the name of James Thomas (aged 49), formerly mate on board the sailing ship *Stainfield*, died suddenly at Bay View Hotel on the 22nd inst. He slept at the hotel on Saturday evening and got up for breakfast the following morning, when he was evidently in his usual state of health. He subsequently came over to Hongkong, returning to Bay View in the afternoon. While he sat down he was taken suddenly ill and died before medical aid could be procured. Heat apoplexy is supposed to have been the cause of death.

A Chinaman appeared at the Magistracy on the 26th inst. to give evidence against a couple of barbers, whom he charged with assault. He said he was passing their shop at Wanchai with a woman when the defendants threw some sand on to her. He remonstrated, whereupon they went for him, tearing his coat, banging him about the head, and otherwise ill-using him, telling him that he should mind his own business. They were each fined \$25, or two months.

At the Magistracy on the 24th inst. a German was charged with trespassing within the limits of Belchers Fort on Monday morning. The defendant was found wandering about the land opposite the fort across Pokfulum road and given into custody. He said he did not know he was trespassing in a fortification or he would not have gone there. There was no notice-board up. Lieutenant Painter informed his Worship that he did not think the man was there for any unlawful purpose. He had possibly been misled, as there was no notice board up to show that he was on War Department property. The man was discharged with a caution. We understand that notices are to be put up forthwith.

The perpetrator of a burglary at Shauiwan on the 15th inst. was captured on Wednesday, and on the 26th inst. Mr. Hazeland sentenced him to six months' hard labour, the first and last fortnights to be in solitary confinement. It was reported to the police that the house—little more than a hovel—was entered by means of a hole made in the wall and that several articles of clothing, etc., had been stolen, the burglary not being discovered until later on in the morning. The police were supplied with a description of the stolen property, which included an umbrella. On Wednesday night a Chinese constable observed a man trying to sell an umbrella like the one stolen to a hawk, and he took him into custody. On his house being searched by Inspector Robertson several articles of clothing which had been stolen were found, together with some pawn-tickets referring to the remainder. The defendant admitted his guilt.

The Dutch cruiser *Koningin Wilhelmina der Nederlanden* left the harbour on the 26th inst. for Shanghai.

A fire broke out at about four a.m. on the 21st inst. at 274, Queen's road Central. The building is a four-storeyed one used as a tobacco manufactory. The fire broke out in the drying room behind the first floor and quickly spread to the floors above, which were soon gutted. Deputy Superintendent Mackie and his men, however, succeeded in preventing any of the adjoining buildings from becoming ignited. The loss is recovered by insurance in the Norwich Union Insurance Company.

The report of the Inspecting Medical officer on the Tung Wah Hospital for the second quarter of 1900 shows that 154 patients remained on 1st April, 905 were admitted in April, May, and June, 587 were discharged, 337 died, 135 remained on 1st July. The 905 admissions compare with 655 for the second quarter of 1897, 700 of 1898, and 812 for 1900. Of the admissions, 329 were under European treatment, 351 under Chinese. Free burial was provided for 501 persons. 53 vaccinations were performed.

At the Magistracy on the 26th inst. Li Long Po, who keeps a school at No. 2, Cochrane Street, was charged with administering excessive corporal punishment to one of his pupils, a boy ten years old, named Leang Kan Sin. The boy said that on the 24th inst. the defendant struck him because he dropped a book on to the floor. He first hit him with a piece of wood and afterwards with the school cane, striking him with great violence. The boy bared his back, which was seen to be covered with bruises evidently caused by a stick. Another boy corroborated and deposed to having fetched the complainant's mother.—The complainant's mother said that when she spoke to the defendant he told her she could summon him if she liked. The boy's back was covered with marks which were not there when he went to school on Tuesday morning.—The defendant said the boy's grandfather had told him to beat the boy because he was naughty. He called two or three scholars to prove this.—His Worship told the defendant that according to English law a schoolmaster could flog a boy by way of lawful correction, but such flogging must not be excessive. He was quite satisfied that in this case the flogging was excessive, and the defendant would be fined \$25, or a month.

Two of the men concerned in the armed robbery on a sampan in Kowloon Bay on the 21st June were brought before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy on the 24th inst. Mr. Bowley, (Crown solicitor) said that the charge was really armed robbery, but as the old man who was in the sampan and who was badly wounded by the prisoners had since died he ordered that the charge might be amended to one of wilful murder. This was accordingly done.—The deceased's widow said that her late husband was the owner of rowing boat No. 291. He was 73 years of age and was blind. Besides herself and her husband there were in the boat her daughter-in-law, grandson (aged nine), and grand-daughter (aged three). On the morning of the 21st June, while the boat was lying at Hung Hom wharf, three men including the two prisoners, came up and engaged the boat, and were taken across Kowloon Bay to Sai Too Wan. Here the men landed. They returned in about half an hour, and the boat was headed towards Hung Hom. When in the middle of the bay, the first prisoner and the man not in custody got up. The man not in custody walked across to her husband, and produced two choppers and began to chop the old man. The first prisoner walked up to her daughter-in-law and caught hold of her. He had a chopper in his hand. The second prisoner, who had no knife in his hand caught hold of witness and pressed her head down. Then the man not in custody struck her twice on the head with a chopper. Her grand-daughter was chopped in the face by the same man. She and her grand-daughter were dragged into the hold by the first prisoner and the man not in custody, and then her husband, daughter-in-law, and grand-son were thrust in. The three men then ransacked the boat and subsequently went away. Her husband was removed to the Hospital and had since died.—Other evidence was given and the further hearing was adjourned.

An enquiry has been held by Mr. Hazeland touching the death of Wong Ping, a servant girl aged 18 years of age residing at 88, Wellington Street. She was admitted to the Hospital on the 12th inst. suffering from poisoning. She died two days afterwards and it was discovered that she had taken opium. A verdict to the effect that she had committed suicide when in a state of unsound mind was returned.

A chair coolie in the employ of Mrs. Long, of Des Vœux Villas, The Peak, was charged on the 20th inst. with behaving in a disorderly manner. Mrs. Long said she was out with her chair, the defendant being the back coolie. At the Tram Station the defendant used a lot of Chinese, and when going up the hill shook the chair violently and then put it down with a bump. The baby was in the chair. A fine of \$10, or a month, was imposed.

The other week a man residing at Saikok, near Sam Sui Po, was convicted of being in possession of arms—fighting irons—without a permit, and on the 25th instant a further charge of being a member of an illegal society was preferred against him. Inspector Macdonald and a party of police, by virtue of a warrant authorising them to search for arms, visited the man's house on the evening of the 8th inst., and in addition to the fighting irons found concealed about the room certain books relating to the Triad Society.—Mr. Hayes appeared for the defendant, who was committed for trial.

About 30 coolies employed at the Naval Yard went on strike on the 20th inst. at the instigation of one of their number, Chung Sze, who was subsequently charged at the Magistracy with behaving in a disorderly manner. The assistant compradore at the Naval Yard said that at about seven o'clock that morning he was at the gate of the Naval Yard when he heard the defendant call out to the other coolies, "Don't you men go in to your work; if you do you are a lot of 'kai tai'." This was said in a loud tone of voice. The defendant had gone in for higher pay. He was fined \$25, or a month.

Captain P. H. Rolfe, of the s.s. *Yuensang*, appeared at the Magistracy on the 24th inst. for the purpose of giving evidence against a couple of Chinamen who had been found on board his ship with intent to obtain a passage thereon without the consent of the owner. He found them on board when on a trip from Hongkong to Manila and brought them back to Hongkong with him. On the day the boat left Hongkong a search was made, but no one was found on board except those who had a right to be there, and the defendants must have come aboard subsequently. The captain had been unable to discover who had been the means of stowing the defendants on board. The defendants were each fined \$25, or a month.

At the Magistracy on the 23rd inst. a marine hawker was charged with stealing an iron block, valued at \$3, from the New Canton Wharf which is being erected on Praya Central. The theft was reported to the police on Saturday morning, and the evening of the same day the block was found at the shop of a marine store dealer, at 39, Wing On street. The police were informed that it had been bought from a man the same day for \$5. The marine store dealer was taken into custody for being in unlawful possession. In the meantime the dealer's *foki* hunted out the hawker and took him to No. 7 Police Station. On the 23rd inst. the man was sentenced to two months' hard labour. The dealer's case was adjourned till Thursday, bail (fixed at \$250) being allowed.

Three Chinaman and a boy were charged with disorderly conduct at Hung Hom on the 21st inst. Indian Constable No. 34 said the defendants, together with some other Chinese, were in a street by the docks at Hung Hom throwing stones at some Indian sailors from the *Algoa*. There were about 150 Chinese altogether. A stone thrown by the first defendant hit a sailor on the shoulder and cut it, but he would not come to court. Witness arrested the first, second, and fourth defendants, one of the sailors assisting him and the third man was arrested on the way to the Police Station. The third defendant was calling out to the crowd to kill the sailors. Defendants were each fined \$10, or a month.

An impudent attempt at robbery was made at Capsuimoon on the night of the 21st. The scholars attending Miss Hamper's School, Victoria Home, are at present located in the old customs station at Capsuimoon, while their city quarters are being renovated. At about seven o'clock on Saturday night the scholars were at prayers, and a crowd of Chinese was collected round the door listening to the singing. Thinking this a good opportunity for stealing something a Chinaman crept upstairs. While searching for something portable, however, the house coolie confronted him. He seized hold of him and raised an alarm. The would-be thief was handed over to the police patrol launch, and was yesterday sentenced to one month's hard labour as a rogue and vagabond.

Mr. Hazeland sentenced two Japanese to one month's hard labour on the 21st inst. for assaulting a Chinese boatman. The latter said he was opposite Blue Buildings when the defendants came up. They got into his boat, and at once commenced to assault him, striking him on the jaw and neck. He called out for the police and the defendants were captured. His Worship characterised the assault as cowardly, and unwarranted, and said that the defendants must be shown that they could not assault Chinese boatmen with impunity.

On the 22nd and 21st inst. the Chinese community of Hongkong celebrated the thirtieth birthday of the Emperor Kwang Hsu by a liberal display of lanterns and Chinese flags and by letting-off crackers. It was noticeable that the anniversary was much more generally observed than usual, and it would be interesting to learn the reason. In the Chinese portion of the town there was a regular fusillade all the afternoon, and in the Praya there was a great display.

At the Magistracy on the 21st inst. five men were charged with cutting and wounding. It appears that the previous day some Tung Kun men were engaged in carrying firewood from a boat to a godown in Sai Wo Lane. Their way led through a passage where some 20 men belonging to the San Wui men were packing sugar. As the San Wui men obstructed the whole passage the Tung Kun men remonstrated and asked them to get on one side. A quarrel ensued. From words they came to blows. The sugar packers were using hooked choppers and one of them struck a Tung Kun man and inflicted a deep gash under the right armpit. The whole lot then cleared away. Five of the men were arrested by Inspector Baker and his constables on the 21st inst. The man who used the chopper was sentenced to four months' hard labour and the other four to a month.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shaghai ..	—	—
Amoy ..	48,037	70,723
Foochow ..	6,905,936	7,632,720
Canton ..	—	—
	6,954,973	7,703,443

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
Shanghai ..	—	—
Amoy ..	3,032,579	1,968,489
Foochow ..	391,732	717,809
	3,424,311	2,684,298

SILK.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1899-1900	1898-9
	bales.	bals.
Shanghai ..	62,473	51,722
Canton ..	24,784	94,188
Yokohama ..	20,612	19,391
	107,869	165,251

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1899-1900	1898-9
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai ..	15,659	6,928
Canton ..	7,645	7,901
Yokohama ..	33,909	29,891
	57,213	44,720

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 27th July.—There is no market, and the price is consequently going downward. Quotations for Formosa are:—\$92.50 to \$93.00 sales 200 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 27th July.—The downward tendency continues, the market being dull. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White ..	\$7.75 to \$7.80	pci.
do. " 2, White ..	7.15 to 7.20	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ..	5.30 to 5.35	"
do. " 2, Brown ..	5.15 to 5.20	"
Swatow, No. 1, White ..	7.80 to 7.85	"
do. " 1, White ..	7.20 to 7.25	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ..	5.15 to 5.20	"
do. " 2, Brown ..	5.05 to 5.10	"
Foochow Sugar Candy ..	11.65 to 11.70	"
Shekloong " ..	10.20 to 10.25	"

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per ship *J. B. Walker*, sailed on June 30th. 29,496 rolls matting, 1,362 bales cassia, 437 bales strawbraid, 379 bales rattancore, 100 casks soy, 50 cases essential oil, 50 bags coffee, 33 cases Chinaware, 3 pkgs. sundries.

Per s.s. *Bayern*, sailed 12th July. For Genoa:—309 bales raw silk, 77 bales canes. For Genoa/Barcelona:—15 bales canes. For New York:—120 cases essential oil. For Trieste:—250 boxes cassia lignea. For Antwerp:—647 bales bamboo scraps, 200 boxes cassia, 150 bales split bamboo, 114 bales feathers, 51 rolls matting, 40 bales canes, 22 cases Chinaware, 2 cases cigars. For Antwerp/Hamburg:—70 cases bristles. For Antwerp/London/Hamburg:—45 cases bristles. For Amsterdam:—178 rolls matting, 21 cases Chinaware. For Amsterdam/Rotterdam:—80 pkgs. tea. For Rotterdam:—250 bales broken cassia, 7 cases cigars. For London:—200 pkgs. tea, 50 cases essential oil, 30 cases bristles. For Bremen:—81 rolls matting, 17 cases sundries. For Bremen/Hamburg:—22 cases Chinaware. For Hamburg:—2,197 pkgs. tea, 1,300 boxes cassia, 152 bales feathers, 85 cases bristles, 45 rolls matting, 35 cases sundries, 30 cases cigars, 20 cases essential oil, 15 cases tea, 7 cases human hair. For Hamburg/London:—500 boxes cassia. For Copenhagen:—4 bales cassia.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 27th July.—A good harvest is reported on the mainland, and the prices are consequently declining. Quotations are:—Saigon, Ordinary .. \$2.75 to 2.80
" Round, Good quality .. 3.00 to 3.05
" Long .. 3.20 to 3.25
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 .. 2.90 to 3.95
" Garden, " No. 1 .. 3.25 to 3.30
" White .. 3.97 to 4.00
" Fine Cargo .. 4.08 to 4.13

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 27th July.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*.—50 bales No. 8 at \$89, 900 bales No. 10 at \$82 to \$89, 650 bales No. 12 at \$87 to \$91, 200 bales No. 16 at \$95 to \$98.50, 1,550 bales No. 20 at \$93 to \$103. *Drill*.—225 piculs 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$6.20. *Grey Shirtings*.—1,000 piculs 10 lbs. Blue 5 men at \$4.20.

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s ..	\$74.00 to \$101.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24 ..	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24 ..	116.00 to 122.00
" 28 to 32 ..	129.00 to 133.00
" 38 to 42 ..	147.00 to 154.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs ..	2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs ..	2.20 to 2.25
8.4 lbs ..	2.75 to 3.60
9 to 10 lbs ..	3.70 to 4.65
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. ..	2.55 to 2.75
58 to 60 " ..	3.00 to 3.75
64 to 66 " ..	4.00 to 4.75
Fine ..	5.00 to 7.75
Book-folds ..	4.35 to 6.25

Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.75	to	1.50
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.65	to	1.80
7lbs. (32 ")	1.90	to	2.10
6lbs. (32 ") Mexs.	1.80	to	2.00
7lbs. (32 ")	2.35	to	2.70
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	2.70	to	3.40
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.10	to	7.00

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs }	1.70	to	7.00
Brocades—Dyed	4.20	to	5.20
	per yard		
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08½	to	0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.26	to	0.65
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23	to	0.28
	per dozen		

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.40 to 2.50

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.90	to	1.70
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.55	to	1.75
	per piece		
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.70	to	10.30
Assorted	6.80	to	10.40
Camlets—Assorted	12.50	to	21.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted }	11.50	to	22.00
Orleans—Plain	8.50	to	10.00
	per pair		

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.20 to 16.00

METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	5.00	to	—
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	5.25	to	—
Swedish Bar	7.50	to	—
Small Round Rod	5.50	to	—
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	5.75	to	—
Wire 15/25	8.50	to	—
Old Wire Rope	2.50	to	—
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	10.00	to	—
Australian	10.00	to	—
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.	39.00	to	—
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.	39.00	to	—
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.	38.00	to	—
Composition Nails	60.00	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs	40.00	to	—
Tin	76.00	to	—
	per box.		

Tin-Plates 7.50 to —

Steel ½ to ¾ 6.50 to —

SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	170.00	to	—
	per box.		
Window Glass	6.20	to	—
	per 10-gal. case		
Kerosene Oil	2.86	to	—

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 27th July.—There is no business of any importance to report with the exception of Indo-Chinas, which have been dealt in to a fair extent. The market generally continues dull, but rates seem steadier and any demand for shares in most of the leading stocks is not readily met.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled steady to firm with but little or no business at from 300 per cent. prem. to 305 per cent. prem., and at time of closing could be placed in small lots at the latter rate. The meeting of the Corporation is advertised for 18th August. Transfer books closing from 4th to 18th August inclusive. Nationals unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—There is no business to report under this heading except a small sale of China Traders at \$58.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas continue on offer at quotations without business.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been placed at \$30½ and close steady at that rate. Indo-Chinas have been dealt in to a fair extent at \$70 for cash, market closing steady at that rate. Douglasses remain neglected as also China Manilas. China Mutuals are enquired for in a small way at quotations.

REFINERIES.—No business to report under this heading.

MINING.—Punjoms have found buyers in unimportant lots at \$3.50 and \$3.60 closing firmer at \$4. Jelebus have declined to \$10 with sellers and no sales. Olivers and Great Easterns have changed hands at quotations in small lots and close with sellers. Raubs have changed hands at \$58 closing with sellers at that rate.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue quiet with small sellers at \$512 and a few shares have been placed forward at less than an equivalent rate. Kowloon Wharfs have been

enquired for and a few shares have changed hands at \$85 cum new, and at \$55 for new issue, market closing with buyers at \$81, old, and \$55, new. Wanchais are still in demand at \$57, but very few shares are obtainable.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—The market under this heading has been very dull and with the exception of small sales of West Points there is nothing to report.

COTTON MILLS.—No local business. With the exception of Hongkongs quotations are taken from the latest Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have changed hands at \$20½ and \$20½. Electrics at \$10½ and United Asbestos at \$10 ex div. of 15 per cent. on ordinary shares.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125 305 p. ct. prem. =	[\$506½, buyers
China & Japan, ordy.	24	21.
Do. deferred	21	25 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares		\$27, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$27, buyers
Foun. Shares	28	\$20.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$1½, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.80, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$114, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 40.
Hongkong	\$100	\$30, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$8½.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$48.
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$20½, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$118.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$10½, sales
	\$10	\$2, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$170, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$126, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$165, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$81, o. \$55, n. bys.
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$168, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	512 p. ct. prem. =
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$132½, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$79, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$58, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$295, sellers
North-China	225	Tls. 165.
Straits	\$20	\$1.
Union	\$50	\$262½, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$121, sellers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$160, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$25½, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$47½, buyers
Luzons Sugar	\$100	\$36.
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$280, sellers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$3	15 cents sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cents
Jelebu	\$5	\$10, sellers
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c.	\$15, c., sales & sells.
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$3, sales
Do. B.	\$4½	\$2½, sales
Punjom	\$7	\$4, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.
Raubs	16s. 10d.	\$58, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$21, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	(\$65, old sellers
		\$18, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	210	\$11, buyers
China Ordinary	210	\$10 10s., buyers
Do.	25	\$5, 5s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$43, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$30½, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$70.
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	2100	\$200, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	(\$18, sales & sells.
		\$4½, sales & sells.
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10, ex div., sellers
Do.	\$10	\$20, ex div.,
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37½	\$57, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$15½, sellers
The Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$5½, buyers.

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 27th July.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	2/0
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.52
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.56½

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	2.05
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	48½
Credits, 60 days' sight	49½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	150½
Bank, on demand	150½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	150½
Bank, on demand	150½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	2 p.c. pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	½ p.c. pm.
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ON BATAVIA.—

On demand	120½
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ON HAIPHONG.—

On demand	3 p.c. pm.
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ON SAIGON.—

On demand	2½ p.c. pm.
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ON BANGKOK.—

On demand	60
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SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate 9.90

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 53

BAR SILVER, per oz 271½

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Coromandel (str.), Rhipheus (str.)
Calchas (str.), Prometheus (str.), Banca (str.)

FOR MARSEILLES.—Tonkin (str.), Banca (str.)
Hitachi Maru (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL DIRECT.—Sarpodon (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Konig Albert (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Marburg (str.)
Sazonia (str.), Sibiria (str.), Serbia (str.), Silesia (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Goodwin (str.), Tartar (str.), Idzuma Maru (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—Empress of China (str.).

FOR PORTLAND, O.—Monmouthshire (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—China (str.), Nippon Maru (str.), Doric (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—Albenga (str.), Acara (str.),
Richmond Castle (str.), Indravelli (str.).

FOR SAN DIEGO AND KOBE.—Carlisle City (str.).

FOR AUSTRALIA.—Eastern (str.), Yawata Maru (str.), Changsha (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

July—
 20, Chittagong, British str., from Moji.
 21, Benvenue, British str., from Moji.
 21, Kwanglee, British str., from Shanghai.
 21, Afridi, British str., from Singapore.
 21, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 21, Pakhoi, British str., from Canton.
 21, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 21, Warora, British transport, from Calcutta.
 21, Itama, British transport, from Calcutta.
 21, China, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 21, Anping Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.
 21, Goliath, British battleship, from England.
 21, Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
 22, Aglaia, Austrian str., from Singapore.
 22, Chiyuen, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
 22, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 22, Ballarat, British transpt., from Bombay.
 22, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 22, Piet-Hein, Dutch cruiser, from Batavia.
 23, Putiala, British transport, from Calcutta.
 23, Wardha, British transport, from Calcutta.
 23, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 23, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 23, Koningin Wilhelmina der Nederlanden, Dutch cruiser, from Batavia.
 23, Daybreak, British str., from Shanghai.
 23, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 23, Hating, French str., from Haiphong.
 23, Kingsing, British str., from Swatow.
 23, Pronto, German str., from Newchwang.
 23, Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
 23, Michael Jebson, German str., from Pakhoi.
 24, Stentor, British str., from Foochow.
 24, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
 24, Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.
 24, Taishun, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
 24, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 24, Queen Adelaide, British str., from Tacoma.
 25, Weimar, German str., from Bremen.
 25, Palamcotta, British transport, from Taku.
 25, Else, German str., from Chefoo.
 25, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 25, Vadala, British transport, from Calcutta.
 25, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 25, Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.
 25, Hoihao, French str., from Haiphong.
 25, Java, British str., from Singapore.
 25, Phranang, British str., from Bangkok.
 25, Stuttgart, German str., from Shanghai.
 26, Catherine Apar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 26, Germania, German str., from Saigon.
 26, Alesia, German str., from Hamburg.
 26, Machew, British str., from Swatow.
 26, Nevada, British transport, from Calcutta.
 26, Daphne, German str., from Moji.
 26, Prometheus, British str., from Singapore.
 26, Euphetilla, British str., from Moji.
 26, Royalist, British str., from Moji.
 26, Kashing, British str., from Hongay.
 27, Benlond, British str., from Moji.
 27, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
 27, S. v. Langkut, Dutch str., from Polo Sambo.
 27, Glaucus, British str., from Liverpool.
 27, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 27, Buffalo, U.S. cruiser, from Colombo.
 27, Glenesk, British str., from London.
 27, Mohawk, British cruiser, from Auckland.
 27, Anping, British str., from Shanghai.

July—
 21, Eastern, British str., for Kobe.
 21, Valetta, British str., for Europe.
 21, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.
 21, Toonan, Amr. str., for Shanghai.
 21, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Katsuno Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
 21, Kasuga Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
 21, Kwanglee, British str., for Canton.
 21, Haimun, British str., for Taku.
 22, Hermes, Norw. str., for Hongay.
 22, Loongmoon, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
 22, Maidzuru Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 22, Nanyang, German str., for Saigon.
 22, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
 22, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 22, Keongwai, British str., for Swatow.
 22, Afghanistan, British str., for New York.
 22, Itama, British transport, for Taku.
 22, Warora, British transport, for Taku.
 22, Rosetta, British str., for Yokohama.
 22, Franz Ferdinand, Aust. str., for Yokohama.
 23, Daybreak, British str., for Canton.
 23, Pronto, German str., for Canton.
 23, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.

24, Ballarat, British transport, for Taku.
 24, Piet-Hein, Dutch cruiser, for Tientsin.
 24, Kong Beng, British str., for Bangkok.
 24, Benladi, British str., for Nagasaki.
 24, Sullberg, German str., for Canton.
 24, Benmohr, British str., for Singapore.
 24, Menmuir, British str., for Manila.
 24, Afridi, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Chiyuen, Amr. str., for Shanghai.
 25, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 25, Hue, French str., for Kwong-chow-wan.
 25, Sandakan, German str., for Sandakan.
 25, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 25, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 25, Hating, French str., for Haiphong.
 25, Kingsing, British str., for Kobe.
 25, Stentor, British str., for London.
 25, Else, German str., for Canton.
 25, Crown of Arragon, Brit. str., for Foochow.
 25, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Tamsui.
 26, Koningin Wilhelmina der Nederlanden, Dutch cruiser, for Shanghai.
 26, Weimar, German str., for Shanghai.
 26, Palamcotta, British transport, for Calcutta.
 26, Wardha, British transport, for Weihaiwei.
 26, Putiala, British transport, for Weihaiwei.
 26, Vadala, British transport, for Weihaiwei.
 26, Michael Jebson, German str., for Hoihow.
 26, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 26, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Pakhoi, British str., for Kobe.
 26, Siam, British str., for Swatow.
 26, Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.
 26, Taishun, Amr. str., for Haiphong.
 26, Stuttgart, German str., for Europe.
 27, Nevada, British transport, for Weihaiwei.
 27, Hitachi Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 27, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 27, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS LIST.
ARRIVED.

Per *China*, from San Francisco, &c., Miss L. C. Annan, Mrs. C. W. Barber and child, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Barnard, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Farnam, Jr., Messrs. H. Heeduerich and F. A. Lapan, Mrs. C. Petersen, child and servant, Miss E. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wildman, two children and two servants, Mr. P. Boteler, Lieut. D. H. Biddle, U.S.N., Mr. C. L. Duhain, Lieut. and Mrs. G. S. Gibbs, Messrs. E. Knopff, B. Soule and Mrs. W. D. Webb and child.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Messrs. A. J. Pitcher, C. J. Bates, H. Austin, F. M. Streiff, L. Patino, J. Sobrido, R. W. Crawford, J. Tejada and child, Chan Chin, On Suya and child, Louis Morante, wife and four children, T. Sinclair, J. Martin, H. Ashman, S. V. Case, J. Satam, C. J. Sherwood, J. Manners and 249 Chinese.

Per *Wardha*, from Calcutta, Major E. A. Kettlewell (commanding troops), Capt. Hatherell, Lieuts. H. E. Rudkin, G. Hutchinson and R. E. Krickenbeck.

Per *Kingsing*, from Swatow, Mr. and Mrs. Webster.

Per *Yawata Maru*, for Hongkong, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Maxwell, Messrs. W. H. Gill, E. Delbance, M. Ponsonby and Julio Cobut; for Manila, General and Mrs. J. H. Smith, Mrs. Whilworth, Mrs. H. C. Hale, Mrs. Wolf, Mrs. Cooper and child, Miss Lowell, Messrs. E. H. Moore and Kutz, Mr. and Mrs. Ishikawa, Messrs. D. Garcia, C. Zamora, J. McKenna, E. R. Russell, J. McB. Hunter and A. E. Weckstrom; for Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Clafferton, Misses Craik, Vindin, Messrs. W. P. Hood, Mr. H. Winch, Mrs. Fawcett and two children; for Melbourne, Mr. L. R. Curton; for Townsville, Mr. J. H. Lynch.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. Gordon Wilson, Mrs. T. Brown, Rev. C. C. Brown, Mr. J. D. Minhinett and Mr. W. Gaulborne.

Per *Hitachi Maru*, from Yokohama for Singapore, Mrs. Blanco; for Marseilles, Mr. T. Kashimura; for London, Captain Gones and Mr. F. S. Colman; for Hongkong, Mr. Ting Hi Ting; for Colombo, Messrs. K. M. Saresupper, U. D. Cololise and Simon; for Marseilles, Messrs. T. Yoshimoto and K. Fujie; for London, Messrs. J. Weir, S. Okuda, H. Dorrell, J. Osborne and G. Crabtree.

Per *Palamcotta*, from Taku, Sub-Lieut. Braithwait, Surgeon Smyth, Miss Neile and Mr. Robert.

Per *Weimar*, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Messrs. Ch. Hoppenberg and Andreas Schmidt; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Witkowski; from Colombo, Messrs. G. H. Percival and J. Grieve; from Singapore, Capt. G. Tyake, R.A., Messrs. H. D. Price and A. Dand; for Shanghai, from Genoa, Messrs. Meier and B. Cronjager; from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Thomsen, Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, Dr. David Brown; from Singapore, Messrs. F. Tatlock, O. Milegoff, Mrs. M. Schneter, Mrs. R. Krayne and Mrs. M. Silberstein, Messrs. D. Goldstein and E. Fischman, Mr. and Mrs. R. Grunberg; for Yokohama, from Southampton, Mr. Ch. R. Kaempf and Dr. E. Kaempf; from Penang, Mrs. Ch. Hana; for Kobe, from Bremen, Mr. L. Niemann; from Singapore, Mr. Yoneh; for Nagasaki, from Singapore, Mrs. Oehenel and Mrs. Ohing.

Per *Stuttgart*, from Yokohama, &c., Mrs. E. Paul, Miss Bradley, Mrs. Allerdycce, Messrs. Watkins, Linton, Barfoot, Mrs. Dewar, Mrs. Girard, Capt. Petersen, Capt. Brehm, Mrs. Roach, Rev. Macintyre, Mrs. Griffith and Misses Kasten.

Per *Catherine Apar*, from Calcutta, Mrs. Durant, and Mr. W. J. Russell and 488 Indians.

DEPARTED.

Per *Hongkong Maru*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. H. Koops, Capt. J. C. Bryan, Messrs. E. Detrick, R. Bauld, George Bonico and J. F. Mallory; for Nagasaki, Mrs. W. G. Humphreys, Miss D. Humphreys, Masters Ernest Humphreys and Cecil Humphreys; for Yokohama, Messrs. Tanuma, Lo Nai Chong and M. Kimoshita; for Honolulu, Mr. H. Glade; for San Francisco, Mr. S. W. Perkins, Mrs. M. J. Stratford, Lt. Comdr. A. P. Nazes, Mr. B. Howard, Misses B. Simon and R. Seligson, Messrs. Chas. Metzger, E. Metzger, J. H. Shean, Li Yuk Lam and Wong Kew, Mrs. Lee Way Tong, Mrs. Li Ham Shi and infant, Misses Li Bgan Shing and Li Loi I, Mrs. Li Chan Shi, Misses Li Kam and Wong Soy, Masters Wong Lin and Wang Lee; for Settle, Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Denmon and infant; for New York, Mrs. M. C. Putman, Lieut. Putman and Dr. H. H. Haker; for Chicago, Mr. A. Morrison; for Pittsburg, Mr. C. A. Jackson; for Philadelphia, Mr. J. W. Barnes and Mrs. L. D. Dustler; for London, Dr. S. J. R. Graville and Mrs. C. A. Graville.

Per *Valetta*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Mr. J. Whitby; for Brindisi, Miss N. J. Lewis; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Crawford; for London, Mrs. Black and family, Mrs. Nesbitt and family, Major and Mrs. Morris, R. W. F., Mrs. Symons and family; from Shanghai, for London, Mrs. Drake and family; from Nagasaki, for London, Mrs. England.

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